



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Government To Liberalize Farm Imports

OW010631 Tokyo KYODO in English 0436 GMT
1 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Government and Liberal Democratic Party leaders formally agreed Monday to liberalize imports of eight farm items but to maintain trade controls on two others, LDP officials said.

The eight are processed beef and pork; canned pineapples; tomato juice; tomato ketchup and sauce; fruit puree and paste; processed cheese; grape sugar, and other processed foods.

Imports of starch and powdered and condensed milk will remain under government controls.

The government will tell a session of the General Agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) in Geneva on Tuesday that it will accept a GATT panel report which urged Japan to remove trade restrictions on the 10 farm items.

Japan will probably pay penalties for not lifting controls on imports of the two, the officials said.

The government and LDP also agreed to set an "adequate period" for the removal of restrictions in order to avoid unfavorable influences on domestic producers, the officials said.

Continue
OW300115 Tokyo KYODO in English 0002 GMT
30 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Japan [and] the United States have extended a bilateral treaty on science and technology cooperation by two months beyond the expiry late this month to avoid its abrogation, while talks on revision continue, Japanese officials said Saturday.

A letter confirming the extension of the pact was exchanged between Japanese Charge d'Affaires Taizo Watanabe and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington.

Under the treaty, concluded in 1980 and set to expire this March, joint research in 48 categories, including space and biotechnology, is now underway.

The U.S. side began last October to complain that many more Japanese than Americans are involved in the joint projects, and to ask that a clause be inserted in the pact protecting the secrecy of research results affecting security. They now seek drastic revisions, the officials said.

Five rounds of negotiations have since been held in which the Japanese side has opposed the U.S. requests, especially the proposed inclusion of the special clause, on grounds of academic freedom, they said.

The two countries have agreed to extend the treaty by two months while the revision talks continue, the officials said.

However, it is not certain whether the negotiations will be completed within the extension period, they said.

Government Moves To Protect U.S. Patents

OW311247 Tokyo KYODO in English 0628
GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—Japan plans to set up a technology property committee to protect confidential U.S. patents on military technology, government sources said Sunday.

The committee, comprised of officials from the Foreign Ministry, International Trade and Industry Ministry and the Defense Agency, will be set up in the near future in response to U.S. fears that its military patent information might be leaked if transferred to Japan, the sources said.

They also said the Japanese Government will ensure that any patent information designated as secret by the U.S. will not fall into public hands.

The agreement will be included as an appendix to be attached to a 1956 Japan-U.S. pact on exchanges of patent information, the officials said.

The patents issue has become a focus of concern in Washington as Japan and the United States have decided to step up their cooperation to develop a new fighter for use in Japan and other high-tech military equipment.

In Japan, all technical patents are open to the public whereas in the United States the defense department has authority to classify patented military technology.

Patents protection was incorporated in the 1956 technology pact but neither country took steps to enforce the rule.

Under the new arrangements, senior officials from the Foreign Ministry, MITI and the Defense Agency will screen patented U.S. military technology and decide whether they should be subject to classification in Japan as well, government sources said.

Soviet Official Urges Joint Ventures

OW011115 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT
1 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—A senior Soviet official Monday urged Japan to start joint ventures in the Soviet Union with the intention of developing Soviet goods for export to Japan as well as to the rest of the world.

Mikhail Kiselyov of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations told reporters that Japan is now studying the feasibility of starting joint ventures in chemicals, electronics, machine tools, fish processing, wood-chip and many other industries in the Soviet Union.

"The Japanese share—49 percent of the venture—can be either in the form of capital or technology but we would prefer the latter," he said at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

He also said that COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] rules, even though limiting the development of trade with Japan, does not bar the Japanese from participating in the development of the Soviet economy.

Kiselyov is presently attending the 11th Japan-Soviet Business Cooperation Committee meeting and has met with Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno.

The Soviet Union, as a developed country, will be able to provide Japan with high technology in the fields of chemicals, machine-building and the non-ferrous metals industry, said Kiselyov.

Speaking on the possibility of starting a free trade zone, Kiselyov said the Soviet Union is looking into the Chinese experience of establishing their own in the hope of learning about the merits and demerits of the project.

"Our joint ventures with Japan will not be competitive with China because ours will deal mainly with commodity trade," he added.

With the new Soviet trade policy of allowing their industries to open direct links with their foreign counterparts, Kiselyov said he expects Japan to send a business delegation, probably by next year, to discuss the present Soviet proposals.

Ludvic Chizov of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, answering political questions, said Prince Sihanouk has no intention of resigning from his position as president of Democratic Kampuchea.

He also said the Soviet stance of not thinking of the northern islands as a territorial issue remains unchanged. He added, however, that there must be flexibility between the two countries on the issue.

Speaking on the Soviet decision to send a team to the summer Olympics in South Korea, Chizov said the Soviet athletes would be participating in an international sporting event.

"This does not mean that we have changed our position towards South Korea. We opposed the decision to hold the Olympics in Seoul along with North Korea," he said.

Chizov also denied that the Soviet Union is planning to expand its military presence in North Korea.

Takeshita Plans To Visit PRC in June

*OW301159 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT
30 Jan 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita plans to visit China in June to further develop relations between the two countries, government sources said Saturday.

The sources said the date of Takeshita's visit will be negotiated through diplomatic channels.

They said Japan's financial assistance to China and the dispute over ownership of a Chinese student dormitory in Kyoto are expected to be the main subjects to be discussed by Takeshita and Chinese leaders.

Takeshita wants to realize his China trip as early as possible since this year is the 10th anniversary of the Sino-Japanese treaty of peace and friendship, they said.

Since the aid question will be a focal subject of discussion in Beijing, foreign and other ministries will expedite adjustment of their views on the scale of Japanese aid pledge to China, the sources said.

China has asked Japan for loans totaling 1.6 trillion yen to restructure its industrial infrastructure for pushing ahead with the country's economic modernization program.

Takeshita also wishes to show Japan's sincerity toward solving the dispute over the Kokuryo dormitory by making the trip to Beijing as early as possible.

The prime minister originally planned to make the visit in March. He dropped the plan because of China's domestic problems, including the convening of the seventh session of the Chinese National People's Congress at which new leaders will be appointed.

Chinese leaders have expressed strong displeasure over a Japanese court ruling granting ownership of the dormitory to Taiwan and Japan's tightening of controls on exports to communist countries following exposure of Toshiba Machine Co's exports of security-sensitive machines to the Soviet Union.

China hopes Takeshita's trip will help remove obstacles hampering the further development of bilateral relations, the sources said.

Foreign Trade Council To Train Chinese
OW261025 Tokyo KYODO in English 0906 GMT
26 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—The Japan Foreign Trade Council Inc., a Tokyo-based private trade organization, will train nine selected Chinese traders and officials for 40 days starting from Wednesday to promote trade relations with China, officials said Tuesday.

The three-year program, the first of its kind, is aimed at helping the Chinese deepen their understanding of international trading business practices and procedures, the officials said.

The nine-member Chinese mission will be led by Ma Junlei, director of the Japanese research department of the state-run International Trade Research Institute.

The traders will undergo training at such trading houses as Kanematsu-Gosho Ltd., Nichimen Corp. and C. Itoh and Co., they added.

PRC Asked To Allow 'War Orphans' To Visit
OW300817 Tokyo KYODO in English 0732 GMT
30 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan 30 KYODO—Japan has asked China to allow five war-displaced persons of Japanese parentage who grew up in China to visit Japan again to search for their kin, Health and Welfare Ministry officials said Saturday.

The ministry decided to conduct the search as it has obtained helpful information to identify the so-called war orphans separated from their families in China toward the end of World War II.

Information on possible relatives of four of the five was obtained through efforts of a group of ministry officials and former Japanese settlers in northeastern China.

The group started a three-year plan last October to tour throughout Japan to gather information on war-displaced Japan.

The five Chinese citizens of Japanese ancestry previously visited Japan under the ministry-sponsored kin-search program but failed to find their kin.

They include Li Guizhi, believed aged 52, of Jilin Province, who visited Japan in October 1986.

They will visit Japan late February to meet their possible kin and take blood tests.

Authorities Report on KAL Suspect's Teacher
OW301219 Tokyo KYODO in English 1152 GMT
30 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan 30 KYODO—The woman described as her Japanese teacher by a confessed North Korean agent allegedly responsible for the destruction of a Korean Air jetliner last November cannot be any of three Japanese missing since 1978, government sources said Saturday.

Kim Hyon-hui, 25, who told South Korean investigators in Seoul that she had planted an explosive in the plane which became missing on a flight to Seoul from Baghdad last November 29, has spoken Japanese.

The plane is believed to have crashed near Burma.

Asked who taught her Japanese, Kim identified the teacher as a Japanese woman whose first name is Une, the Japanese sources said.

Kim also said Une was 165 cm tall, the sources said.

The language [as received] was believed by South Korean investigators to be one of three Japanese women who disappeared from Japanese coastal areas in 1978.

One of the three missing women, Fukie Hamamoto, then 23 of Fukui Prefecture, was about 160 cm tall, and the second woman, Yukiko Okudo then 22, of Niigata Prefecture, was 158 cm, the sources said.

The height of the third missing woman, Rumiko Masumoto, 24, of Kagoshima, was 162 cm they said.

Thus, Kim's teacher is believed to be other than any of the three missing Japanese, the sources said.

Japanese investigators will be sent to Seoul shortly to question Kim more about her teacher, such as her physical features and age, the sources said.

Mauritius Prime Minister Pays 3-Day Visit
OW181141 Tokyo KYODO in English 0901 GMT
18 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—Mauritius Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth will pay a visit to Japan January 25-28 as a government guest, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

It will be Jugnauth's first visit to Japan.

During his stay in Tokyo, Jugnauth will meet with Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko.

He will also meet with Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and other government officials to discuss bilateral matters relating to economic and aid cooperation.

Mauritius, to the east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean, champions a non-aligned policy but emphasized economic exchanges with Western nations.

In Tokyo, the premier will also meet with people representing bereaved families of the 47 Japanese victims in a South African jetliner which crashed into the seas near Mauritius last November.

He will visit Kyoto, western Japan, before leaving Osaka for home, the ministry said.

Agreement on Loans

OW260511 Tokyo KYODO in English 0328 GMT
26 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Japan will provide Mauritius with 1,674 million yen in low-interest loans to help improve the country's telecommunications equipment, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and Mauritian Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Resources Madun Dulo exchanged diplomatic notes on the Japanese assistance in Tokyo.

Dulo arrived here Monday accompanying Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth, who will stay in Japan through Wednesday.

Indonesian Envoy Calls on Takeshita

OW291353 Tokyo KYODO in English 1018 GMT
29 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—Widjojo Nitisastro, special envoy of President Suharto of Indonesia, Friday asked Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita for debt relief from Japan, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Widjojo delivered a letter from Suharto to Takeshita in which the Indonesian President called for Japan's economic assistance and invited Takeshita to visit Indonesia, the official said.

The Indonesian envoy said his country appreciates Japanese economic assistance but that Indonesia has two problems, a reduction in oil prices and the sharp appreciation of the yen's value against the dollar, the official said.

Widjojo was quoted as saying Indonesia, whose economy depends on oil income, has been affected by the appreciation of the yen because yen loans account for a large share of Indonesia's debts.

Indonesia had a total of 43.6 billion dollars in debt with Japan the end of last March, including 36.3 billion dollars worth of public loans.

The Indonesian envoy said his country is making efforts to conquer the difficulties but so far has not been successful.

Takeshita said talks with Suharto at the summit meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Manila last December were very useful and that the Government will consider the Indonesian request.

The prime minister also said he appreciated Suharto's invitation visit Indonesia and would like to do so if his schedule allows, according to the official.

Widjojo, who arrived in Japan on Monday, has also met Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, and other senior officials. He is to leave Japan on Saturday.

Defense Chief To Draw Up Midterm Program

OW291231 Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT
29 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—Tsutomu Kawara, state minister in charge of the Defense Agency, has basically decided to order his officials to start working out a new midterm defense program putting emphasis on a buildup of air and ground defense capabilities, agency sources said Friday.

The new program to be worked out in April or May after the state budget for fiscal 1988 is approved by the Diet follows the current 5-year 18.4 trillion yen midterm program (fiscal 1986-1990), the sources said.

They said the new program will be aimed at improving the ground defense capability to defeat an enemy offshore and thereby forestall an invasion.

The new plan will also call for strengthening the air defense capability of Self-Defense Forces in Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, they said.

To step up air and ground defense capabilities, the program will incorporate the introduction of an airborne warning and control system (AWACS) and the air-to-air refueling of aircraft, requiring a change in the organization of the self-defense forces, the sources said.

The plan, which will be compiled by the end of 1990, is expected to draw strong criticism from opposition parties because it may be seen as running counter to Japan's longstanding "exclusively defensive" military posture.

Finance Ministry Reports Trade Surplus Record
OW291415 Tokyo KYODO in English 0714 GMT
29 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—Japan's current account surplus hit a record annual peak of 86,688 million dollars in 1987 but was up only 1.0 percent from the previous year reflecting a slowdown in exports and a jump in imports, the Finance Ministry reported Friday.

The current account surplus—covering both goods and services trade—rose 2.7 percent in December over a year ago for the first year-on-year gain in 8 months to a record monthly high of 9,437 million dollars.

The balance of merchandise trade was a record 96,464 million dollars in the black in 1987, up 3.9 percent from the previous year, the ministry said.

Exports slowed to a 9.2 percent rise in 1987 from an 18.1 percent surge the previous year, totaling 224,432 million dollars, while imports soared 13.5 percent to 127,968 million dollars. Imports declined 4.5 percent in 1986.

Meanwhile, the invisible trade deficit expanded a hefty 23.7 percent in 1987 to 6,099 million dollars, due to sharply increased freight payments and an increase in the number of Japanese travelers overseas, ministry officials said.

"The current account surplus stopped expanding last year for the first time in 7 years because of the yen's sharp advance against the dollar," one official said.

Financing Terms for Foreign Importers Eased
OW271339 Tokyo KYODO in English 1245 GMT
27 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—The Bank of Japan said Wednesday it has partially eased the screening standard on financing terms for settlement of imports by foreign importers in Japan in a bid to promote the nation's imports.

To date, many subsidiaries of foreign firms operating in Japan could not make use of the import settlement bill system due to their insufficient financial background.

The European Community (EC) demanded an improvement of the system at a financial conference with Japan last summer.

These subsidiaries can now borrow funds from foreign banks in Japan, utilizing the system which offers funds at low interest rates if they have a guarantee from their parent companies.

Under the system, importers issue bills to secure funds for settlement of imports and financial institutions lend funds at low interest rates by discounting the bills. The financial institutions then submit the bills as collateral to the Bank of Japan in order to borrow funds for lending to importers.

The loans provided by the central bank total several hundreds of billions of yen a year, with less than 100 billion yen earmarked for foreign banks.

The Bank of Japan is now considering increasing the allocation of such loans to foreign banks, bank officials said.

Function Tests Begin on Nuclear-Powered Ship
OW010823 Tokyo KYODO in English 0724 GMT
1 Feb 88

[Text] Aomori, Feb. 1 KYODO—A semigovernment research institute began function tests on Japan's first nuclear-powered ship, the "Mutsu," on Monday for the first time in 14 years at its new home port of Sekinehama in Mutsu, Aomori Prefecture, institute officials said.

The Japanese Atomic Energy Research Institute will conduct test on the 8,242-ton ship over the next two months to inspect the vessel's nuclear reactor equipment.

The "Mutsu," inactive since a radiation leak during its maiden voyage in August 1974, arrived at Sekinehama Port from Ominato Port, also in Mutsu, last Wednesday.

Briefs

Hitachi Agreement With PRC

Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—Hitachi Ltd. said Saturday it has agreed to export video tape recorder manufacturing equipment and technology to China. Company officials said Hitachi will be the first Japanese corporation to provide high technology to China. Under the agreement, Hitachi will assist in production of VHS-format video tape recorders [VTR] for home use at two Chinese factories and license another firm to produce cylinders, the main component of VTR equipment. The two VTR manufacturing facilities will be located in Chengdu and Nanjing, each having an annual capacity of 150,000 units. Cylinders will be produced at a plant in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, for supply to the Chengdu and Nanjing factories, the officials said. They said China also plans to manufacture VTRs in Beijing and Dalian. Hitachi said it will soon ask the Ministry of International Trade and Industry for approval of the deal to launch the venture in about one year. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT 23 Jan 88 OW]

Mongolia

Vietnamese Message Notes Snowstorm Losses *BK291625 Hanoi VNA in English 1502 GMT 29 Jan 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 29—Chairman of the [SRV] Council of Ministers Pham Hung today extended profound sympathy to his Mongolian counterpart Dumaagiyn Sodnom, over the great losses in life and property caused by a big snowstorm in central Gobi Province and other areas in Mongolia recently.

"On behalf of the Vietnamese Government and people", the message said, "I wish to convey our kind regards and deep sympathy to the Mongolian Government and fraternal people, especially the bereaved families in the snowstorm-stricken areas.

"We are firmly convinced that under the leadership of the glorious People's Revolutionary Party of Mongolia, the fraternal Mongolian people will rapidly overcome all consequences of the natural calamity and continue to obtain still greater achievements in implementing the resolution of the 19th party congress.

USSR Signs Cultural Cooperation Program *OW290805 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0905 GMT 28 Jan88*

[Text] A cultural cooperation program between Mongolia and the Soviet Union for 1988—more extensive than that for last year—has been signed in Moscow. Besides exchanging art and culture troops, delegations, and functions, the Soviet Union will help in technically equipping cultural centers in Mongolia's rural settlements.

According to the program, theaters, museums, and art schools of the two countries will broaden their direct contacts.

Cooperation in Films Agreed *OW311343 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0905 GMT 29 Jan 88*

[Text] The Mongolian Culture Ministry and the GOSKINO [State Committee for Cinematography] of the Soviet Union have signed in Moscow a cooperation plan for 1988. Under this plan the two countries will jointly shoot a film about combat solidarity of Mongolian and Soviet peoples in the 1939 [word indistinct] battles, exchange films, and also hold a week of Mongolian films in Moscow.

North Korea

MAC Official on 'Team Spirit' Announcement *SK300409 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 30 Jan 88*

[Text] The senior member of our side to the MAC has sent a message of protest to the senior member of the U.S. side.

Major General Yi Tac-ho, senior member of our side to the MAC, today sent a message of protest to the senior member of the U.S. side in connection with the U.S. side's notice served on 28 January stating that it would conduct the aggressive "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise.

The message reads: Impudently, your side has openly sent us a telephone message stating that your side will conduct the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise by mobilizing a large number of aggressive forces from the continental United States and the Pacific in South Korea, extending February through May.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is a nuclear test war and a preliminary war designed to subject us to a preemptive nuclear strike by mobilizing a vast number of troops and modern means of nuclear war. This is a reckless violation of the Preamble, Items 12, and Section c and d of Item 13 of the Korean Armistice Agreement and an extremely grave criminal act that exacerbates the situation and that increases the danger of war in Korea.

As for inviting us to observe the exercise you mentioned, this is a crafty ruse designed to conceal the aggressive nature of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise and a brazen deed that mocks and insults us.

Our side strongly protests the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets for attempting to conduct the criminal "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise, which will lead the situation on the Korean peninsula toward the brink of war, in grave violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

In a bid to make this year a historic year that provides a new phase for national reconciliation and unity between the North and the South, we have put forward a proposal on convening a North-South joint conference to discuss such pressing issues that await immediate solutions as halting large-scale military exercises, including the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, and arranging multinational disarmament talks, and are now exerting efforts to realize them.

However, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, ignoring our peace-loving proposal, are now about to forcibly carry out the "Team Spirit-88" joint

military exercise. This is a vicious challenge to us, who are making every possible sincere effort for the relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula and peaceful reunificationxm

We strongly demand that your side give deep thought to the grave consequences to which your conducting the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise could lead and immediately call off plans for the aggressive military exercise.

Preliminary Announcement Noted

SK280426 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0415 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 28 (KCNA)—A senior representative of the U.S. side to the Military Armistice Commission in an interview with foreign reporters on January 26 said that "Team Spirit" exercise is almost sure to be held this year, too, and it would shortly be officially announced, according to a radio report from Seoul.

He added: "A plan for the 'Team Spirit' this year has long been studied", there is few [as received] "possibility to cancel the exercise."

His official utterance reflecting the aggressive intention of the U.S. imperialists is a foolish attempt to threaten someone with a nuclear war exercise such as the annual "Team Spirit".

In defiance of the resolute protest and condemnation of the Korean people and the world peace-loving people, the U.S. imperialists are challenging our peace-loving initiative and efforts, annually escalating "the Team Spirit" joint military exercise, an all-round nuclear war rehearsal and a preliminary war simulating an invasion of the DPRK.

Turning away from our repeated peace-loving initiatives and going against the trend of the time, the U.S. imperialists are scheming to stage the aggressive "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, while resorting to the anti-DPRK smear campaign together with the South Korean puppet clique.

With no war racket, however, can the U.S. imperialists frighten us. The more reckless they become, the more bitterly they will be condemned by the Korean people and world peace-loving people.

Cancellation Demanded

SK300114 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2149 GMT 29 Jan 88

[NODONG SINMUN 30 January commentary: "Call Off the Provocative War Exercise Plan"]

[Text] On 28 January the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppet clique announced plans for the adventurous "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise.

According to the official announcement made simultaneously in Washington and Seoul, not only the U.S. forces who occupy South Korea and the puppet army, but also units under the U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. forces in the continental United States are to be mobilized in large numbers for this exercise.

Although the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets announced the plans as if the war exercise was to be conducted beginning in March, this is a ploy designed to deceive the world. According to the past custom of viewing the deployment of troops in South Korea as the very beginning of the exercise, this amounts to stretching the period of war for an unprecedentedly long time, February through May.

Unlike past years, this time they did not make public the number of troops to be mobilized in the war exercise. This means that this year they intend to conduct the "Team Spirit" war exercise, which has been conducted in the past with the mobilization of approximately 200,000 troops, on a scale larger than ever and to lay a smoke screen over it.

In view of the movement of the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the puppets, there is no question that the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise will be the largest and the worst ever war exercise, incomparable to war exercises that have been conducted to date, in view of its duration, the number of troops participating in it, and the substance of the war exercise.

This is nothing but a serious criminal act that renders the situation on the Korean peninsula highly tense and leads it toward the brink of war, as well as an intolerable challenge to peace in Asia and the world at large.

With a view toward turning this year, 1988, into a year of historic changes during which to realize national reconciliation and unity and easing the tension between the North and South, we proposed convocation of a North-South joint conference attended by representatives of all political parties and public organizations, including the persons in authority in the North and South, and figures of all social standings, and discussion in that conference of such immediate and pending issues as halting large-scale military exercises, including the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, and arranging multinational disarmament talks, at an early date.

We also proposed opening a new chapter in Korean-U.S. relations suited to the tenor of the times that aspires for peace.

Our proposals reflect the patriotic and peace-loving stand to resolve the Korean question by peaceful means at any cost and to arrange for the North and the South to live in peace as the same people, even if they may not be able to immediately achieve national reunification.

This notwithstanding, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, ignoring our just and fair proposal, have viciously kicked up an anti-Republic commotion using the excuse of the passenger plane incident, while announcing that they will conduct a war exercise, the largest ever. This is a situation that can never be overlooked under any circumstances.

In fact, this is a declaration that negates national reconciliation and unity, a declaration that violates peace, a challenge to the proposal for convocation of the North-South joint conference, and a declaration of confrontation and war.

Referring to the defense of freedom and something else, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets have clamored as if the "Team Spirit" war exercise was necessary because of somebody else's threat. This is a brigandish sophism by bellicose warmongers.

There is no one in the northern half of the Republic who threatens South Korea or the United States. The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is a product of the U.S. strategy of invasion concerning Asia and Korea. The U.S. imperialists are bent on provoking a war of invasion by using South Korea as a forward base to swallow the whole of Korea and, going one step farther, dominate other Asian countries by force, and realize their wild ambitions for domination of the world.

This is the very reason why the U.S. imperialists, after declaring South Korea to be the first line in their strategy, brought in approximately 1,000 pieces of nuclear weaponry, thereby turning it into a dangerous nuclear base, and are conducting war exercises after concentrating large-scale forces from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific. The "Team Spirit" joint war exercise is a preliminary war and a test nuclear war designed to launch a surprise attack on our Republic and other socialist countries.

We cannot overlook the fact that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have made the wicked remarks that they had decided to conduct the criminal "Team Spirit" war exercise because a tense situation had been promoted by the passenger plane incident. It has been known that last May, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets made public at home and abroad that this year they would strengthen forces in South Korea on a large scale and conduct the "Team Spirit" war exercise on a larger scale under the pretext of successfully guaranteeing the Olympics and that early last October, they again confirmed it.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets used the passenger plane incident in the presidential election, in which traitor No Tae-u's election was fabricated, and is again using it as an excuse to conduct a war exercise. This shows at home and abroad how deliberately this incident was concocted. They are shameless because at the same time they announced plans to

conduct the "Team Spirit-88" war exercise, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets played the game, through the MAC, of inviting our side to the war exercise as observers. They are talking about an invitation and so on, even while treating us as the target of their attacks and attempting to reek of powder. This is an act designed to conceal the aggressive nature of their war exercise and to defile us and make a mockery of us.

We cannot overlook, either, the fact that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have planned to conduct the "Team Spirit" war exercise until May. The South Korean situation predicts that the people's struggle to oppose extension of the military rule will explode into a popular struggle. The U.S. imperialists are attempting to threaten, with the force of arms, the democratic forces—who oppose the extension of the military rule—while concentrating large-scale forces on South Korea from February to May. In this way, they are also attempting to back the No Tae-u pro-U.S. military dictatorial regime, which they have newly established.

The South Korean puppets are attempting to conduct a nuclear war exercise together with the U.S. imperialists. This again shows to the world that they are the dirty belongings of the United States and national traitors who attach importance to the interests of outside forces, not those of the nation. The acts of the rascals also show that dialogue or anything else they babble about is all a sham.

While saying that they will hold the Olympics this year, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are attempting to conduct a nuclear war exercise on their eve. This situation arouses concern among the people of the world. Because of maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and the puppets to provoke a new war, the situation in our country has become more tense and an urgent situation in which a nuclear war may break out any time has been promoted on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. imperialists must withdraw its plan to conduct a war exercise that threatens peace in Korea and security in Asia and the world in general and must immediately withdraw from South Korea, taking with them their nuclear weapons. The Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring must stop committing the crime of following the U.S. imperialists's policy of war and must resign from office without delay as requested by the people. If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets start the adventurous game of playing with fire and ignite the fuse to a war of northward invasion despite our repeated warnings, we will respond with 1,000-fold retaliation.

Retaliation Vowed

*SK300800 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1150 GMT 29 Jan 88*

[Commentary by station commentator Yi Chu-kyong:
"A Grave Act of Provocation That Threatens Peace"]

[Text] As has already been reported, on 28 January the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique finally made public their plans for the criminal "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise.

Saying that they would again mobilize not only the U.S. forces that occupy South Korea and the puppet troops, but also units under the U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. troops in the continental United States in the forthcoming military exercise, they announced that the exercise would be conducted for 2 weeks beginning at the end of March. However, the exercise will, in fact, last 3 months, beginning at the end of February when they start moving and deploying the troops in South Korea from [word indistinct] through early May. In this, the wolf's truculent nature and the fox's craftiness to camouflage the former are laid bare simultaneously.

By stating in their announcement that the main objective behind the exercise is to raise combat capabilities through joint exercise for an emergency on the Korean peninsula, they did not try to hide the fact that this military exercise is a preliminary war aimed at provoking a new war of invading Korea.

Upon the news of the criminal war exercise announced by the U.S. imperialists and their running dogs, all the Korean people can hardly suppress their gushing indignation and animosity for them and are now renewing their resolve to resolutely counter the enemy's indiscreet, bellicose frenzy that threatens peace.

The U.S. imperialists and their running dogs have now decided to forcibly carry out the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise at any cost. This is a central expression of their bellicose stand to oppose the relaxation of tension and peace and to openly rush toward military confrontation and war.

As is known, we have put forth many reasonable peace proposals in a bid to ease the tension in the country and to open a path for peaceful reunification. In the latter half of last year, we even took, on our own initiative, a measure of taking the lead in reducing the People's Army force by 100,000. In particular, upon the arrival of the New Year, out of a desire to make the situation on the Korean peninsula—the focus of global attention—decisively favorable to national peace and peaceful reunification, we proposed to discuss and settle a few such immediate and pending issues as the halting of large scale military exercise, including the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, by holding a North-South joint conference.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppets, however, responded to this sincere peace proposal of ours with a full provocation, the so-called announcement of plans for a large-scale exercise war of northward invasion, after challenging it with brazen and malicious anti-Republic slanderous commotions.

What is it but an undisguised declaration of confrontation that negates reconciliation, dialogue, and peace? And what is it but an outrageous act that has laid bare in full view of the world their bellicose frenzy? At the same time, this proves that the U.S. imperialists' and the

puppets' babbling about the security concerning the Olympics is nothing but a slogan of confrontation and war designed to accelerate their preparations for a war of northward invasion under the pretext of the Olympics and to strengthen their confrontation with us.

It is not just its large scale, its offensive substance, and the lengthy period that make the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise troubling. The greater seriousness about it lies in its being a nuclear test war of extreme danger aimed at launching a preemptive nuclear strike at our Republic, which has no nuclear weapons, and at inflicting nuclear catastrophe on our people. In recent years, the U.S. imperialist aggressors have mobilized all manner of nuclear war means, including nuclear strike means capable of firing nuclear warheads and nuclear arms-carrying aircraft, in the "Team Spirit" war exercises. Last year, they even mobilized the E-4B, a nuclear command aircraft built specially for the airborne command of nuclear war.

It is plain as day that this year's war exercise will also be a nuclear war exercise. This nuclear war game to be conducted on a nuclear powder keg—the largest in the Far East—is capable of spreading into an actual nuclear war. This is not an excessive concern.

Nevertheless, the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u puppet group is actively taking part in a nuclear war exercise designed to strike at their fellow countrymen, in league with the U.S. imperialists. What is it but a never-to-be-condoned traitorous act which accompanies not a modicum of national conscience?

Because of the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise that the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are about to conduct, the situation on the Korean peninsula will arrive at a further acute brink of war and our people's struggle for peace and peaceful reunification has once again come to face a grave ordeal.

However, no matter with what frenzied (?show) of strength the U.S. imperialists and their running dogs may surprise our people, they cannot dash the tenacious will of our people who are struggling for their just cause.

The U.S. imperialists and their running dogs should not miscalculate and should abstain from running riot indiscreetly. If, despite our repeated warnings, they recklessly provoke us into war fever, we will subject the provocateurs to retaliatory strikes of hundreds and thousands times.

Struggle Urged Against U.S., South

*SK301010 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0956 GMT 30 Jan 88*

[Text] Pyongyang January 30 (KCNA)—Papers here today, in editorial articles on the lapse of 30 years since the U.S. imperialists began shipping nuclear weapons

into South Korea, call for checking and frustrating the nuclear war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges through a nation-wide struggle.

South Korea, the last colonial strongpoint of the United States on the Asian continent, has been turned into a comprehensive nuclear base where all kinds of nuclear weapons from ultra mini-nuclear bombs to nuclear missiles and neutron bombs are stockpiled and the largest nuclear attack base in the Far East where more than a half of the nuclear weapons deployed in the Far East are concentrated, NODONG SINMUN says.

Noting that the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppet clique are challenging our sincere peaceloving efforts with fanatic scheme to provoke a nuclear war, the paper goes on:

In particular, the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppet clique announced that they would stage the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal from February to May. The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is an adventurous test nuclear war to attack our republic by mobilizing aggression forces in the U.S. mainland and Pacific region and U.S. forces occupying South Korea and the South Korean puppet army.

Facts clearly show that they are shameless nuclear war maniacs who wreck and violate peace on the Korean peninsula and "nuclear deterrent" and "protection under the nuclear umbrella" from someone's threat of aggression much advertized by them are a sophism full of lies and deceptions. [sentence as received]

The paper goes on:

Speaking from the point of view of a fair deal, the United States is not at all justified in having brought nuclear weapons to South Korea and converted it into a nuclear attack base in confrontation with us who possess no nuclear weapons.

If these nuclear weapons are directed against other socialist countries, they ought to withdraw them from South Korea now that they have concluded a nuclear disarmament treaty with the Soviet Union.

The Korean people cannot tolerate South Korea, one half of our territory, being turned into a nuclear base of the United States, and our sacred land being reduced to a field of a nuclear war of the U.S. imperialists.

Nuclear weapons are not a monopoly of the United States. If the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets think they can frighten someone by nuclear weapons, it is a big miscalculation.

The U.S. imperialists must look straight at the situation, cancel the planned "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercise, a test nuclear war, and withdraw without delay all aggression forces including nuclear weapons from South Korea.

The Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group must give up the treacherous acts intended to impose a nuclear holocaust upon the fellow countrymen, as a henchman of the U.S. imperialist masters in their nuclear war and step down without delay, as demanded by the people.

We express the belief that governments, political parties and organisations that love peace and peaceloving forces of all countries of the world will continue to voice firm solidarity with the Korean people in the struggle to prevent a nuclear war and ensure a durable peace on the Korean peninsula.

MINJU CHOSON stresses that if the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets follow the road of war, bereft of reason, they will be burned to death in the flame of a thermonuclear war ignited by themselves.

RENMIN RIBAO Cited

SK310816 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0812 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] *Pyongyang* January 31 (KCNA)—Chinese "PEOPLE'S DAILY" Saturday accused the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique of announcing their plan to stage the provocative "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercise.

The daily said:

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise was staged first in 1976 and this year's is the 13th. Such exercises the United States stages jointly with South Korea boasting of "military power" do not benefit the relaxation of the tension on the Korean peninsula but are contrary to the desire of the Korean people to achieve the peaceful reunification of the country. So, they are strongly opposed by the Korean people and give rise to serious concern among peoples in Asia and the world.

TASS Criticism Cited

SK310406 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0400 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] *Pyongyang* January 30 (KCNA)—TASS on January 28 made public an analyst's article denouncing the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique for announcing their plan to stage the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercises which have been regularly staged since 1976 have become a sort of symbol of the schemes of the U.S. defence department to maintain the dangerous hotbed of tensions on the Korean peninsula, TASS said.

Noting that the "Team Spirit 88" will be staged under the situation in which the United States and South Korea are holding a hostile campaign to defame the international authority of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, TASS said:

For what they need such provocation moves? [sentence as received]

It is quite natural to ask whether their aim is not to invent a pretext to brandish weapons again near the military demarcation line.

Early this year, the DPRK put forward a new epochal peace initiative for convening a North-South joint conference in order to put an end to confrontation, achieve national reconciliation and fundamentally ease tensions on the Korean peninsula. It reaffirmed the unshakable peaceloving stand of the DPRK. But South Korea and the United States answer this proposal with a large-scale military rehearsal.

U.S. SR-71 Plane Reportedly Infiltrates
SK011142 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1100 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The U.S. imperialist aggressors infiltrated an "SR-71" high-speed high-altitude reconnaissance plane into the sky above the coastal waters off the Kangnyong peninsula along the west coast of our country at around 1211 today and committed an act of aerial espionage against the northern half of the republic. This is the sixth such aerial espionage act committed by the U.S. imperialist aggressors this year alone.

Such aerial espionage activity committed by the U.S. imperialist aggressors, timed to coincide with their open announcement of a plan to conduct the adventurous "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise, vividly shows that the U.S. imperialists do not want the relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula and that they are still exacerbating the situation while pursuing only confrontation and war.

South's Naval Exercises Termed 'Reckless'
SK311114 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2150 GMT 28 Jan 88

[NODONG SINMUN 29 January commentary: "War Servants' Reckless Playing with Fire"]

[Text] According to a report, on 28 January the South Korean military fascist clique staged a war exercise called a CBR [chemical, biological, radioactive] warfare drill, including a nuclear war exercise, by mobilizing a puppet naval unit. That day, the puppet clique kicked up a commotion, blowing such a bellicose trumpet as crying out about establishing a combat mobility capability to cope with a blitz warfare and the like.

Earlier, the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring staged a naval mobile exercise at a puppet naval unit, mobilizing battleships and high-speed patrol boats, under the excuse of testing the unit's combat preparedness.

At the sites of war exercises such as the antiair, antiship, and antisubmarine warfare exercises that have been staged recently under the excuse of the nonexistent threat of armed provocation from the North such bellicose and absurd remarks as annihilation at an early stage, demonstration of force, and the like were being cried out.

It is already known that the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring has placed the puppet army under an alert posture since the beginning of the year, and war exercises such as a 1- to 3-day operational posture exercise and a demonstration exercise during severe cold weather have been staged in succession at the puppet army units.

The frantic staging of such reckless and indiscreet war exercises since the beginning of the year is a situation that does not bode well.

Chong Ho-yong, puppet national defense minister, recently begged the commander in chief of the U.S. forces in the Pacific, who had sneaked into South Korea for the continuous support from the U.S. forces, babbling about high possibility of the North's provocations on the threshold of the Olympics and the like.

This vividly shows that such war exercise commotions in South Korea are perpetrated under the criminal aim of igniting another fratricidal war on the strength of the U.S. imperialists. In particular, it should be noted that, proceeding from the sheer desire to make this year a historic year for realizing national reconciliation and unity between the North and the South, we put forward a proposal to hold a North-South joint conference and made efforts for its realization, while the puppets, turning away the proposal, have clung only to anti-Republic commotion and war exercises.

This shows that the puppets are not interested in national reconciliation and unity and do not have the will to peacefully resolve the Korean question even to the slightest degree. By turning away reconciliation and unity with the same nation and the path toward detente and, instead, frantically seeking only war commotion, the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring has completely laid bare its true colors as a group for national treachery and as war servants who are dancing according to the U.S. imperialists' policy of war.

The South Korean puppet clique is now facing the strong resistance of the South Korean people because of its criminal act of having prolonged the military rule by trampling underfoot the people's demands for establishing a democratic regime.

That the puppets have waged the vicious anti-Republic smear commotion while staging the powder-reeking war exercises since the beginning of the new year is designed to threaten the people who oppose the military rule and is a reckless act of attempting to find a way out by igniting a war of northward invasion.

However, the war commotion cannot become a way out for the South Korean puppets. The South Korean people, including youths and students, will never tolerate the puppet clique's antinational, criminal act of opposing reconciliation and unity between the North and the South and intentionally aggravating tension.

The situation on the Korean peninsula today has become extremely tense because of the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring's anti-Republic smear commotion and war exercise commotion. The situation is now in a grave state in which no one can presume when a war may be ignited by the rascals.

We are keenly watching the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring's indiscreet playing with fire with high vigilance. The puppets can gain only ruin from their war commotion.

South Said Continuing War Game Exercises
SK010439 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0430 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—The South Korean military fascist clique decided to hold a war game called "naval shooting exercise" on the southeast sea of Ochong Island on the west coast for a month from February 1 with the mobilization of a puppet navy unit, according to a report.

In this period, the fascist clique plans to create a war atmosphere, firing guns every day from early morning to 10:30 pm.

From the outset of the new year, the puppets staged military exercises one after another, such as a nuclear war exercise and the so-called "demonstrative chemical, biological and radioactive warfare exercise", "exercise of preparations for one day and three day operations", "demonstrative exercise in cold winter" and "naval mobile exercise" making bellicose outbursts about "annihilation in the initial stage of war" and "demonstration of strength".

Attention cannot but be paid to the fact that such war games were timed to coincide with the announcement of the plan of the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal.

The puppets' war games at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists are a criminal move to threaten the South Korean people opposed to the extension of the military rule, turning their face away from our save-the-nation proposal, and, furthermore, ignite a war against the North to open a way out from the crisis.

If the fascist clique light a fuse on a war at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, it will result in precipitating their own destruction.

Support Letter From Sihanouk Received
SK300501 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0438 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 30 (KCNA)—Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea, sent to the general representation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in France a letter supporting the statement of the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY dated January 15 which denounced the South Korean puppets' "results of investigation" into the KAL incident.

In his letter he stressed that he had always supported and would support in the future, too, his excellency President Kim Il-song, the respected great leader of the Korean people and nation, and the glorious Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

WPK Sends Solidarity Message to Sandinists
SK010437 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0426 GMT 01 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent a message of solidarity to the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front on January 28, denouncing the U.S. imperialists for increasing "aid" to the Nicaraguan rebels of late and instigating them to oppose the Nicaraguan Government and people.

The message said: At the moment when the Central American peoples are making new efforts to realize peace in this region and the Nicaraguan Government, in particular, is taking concrete measures for the country's peace and stability, the U.S. imperialists are increasing the "aid" to the Nicaraguan rebels and instigating them to oppose the Nicaraguan government and people. This clearly shows that U.S. imperialism is the ringleader of war of aggression and the main culprit of state terrorism.

The Central Committee of the WPK bitterly denounces the aggressive manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists against the peace-loving Nicaraguan people as an outrageous infringement upon the sovereignty of the Nicaraguan people and a challenge to world peace and strongly demands the United States to stop at once its manoeuvres to stamp out the Nicaraguan revolution by encouraging the Nicaraguan rebels, the message noted, and stressed:

We will as ever render full support to the Nicaraguan people in the just struggle for frustrating the intervention of the U.S. imperialists, achieving peace and stability of the country and building a new society.

Daily on Measures Needed for World Peace
SK010449 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0434 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—In his new year address for this year the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, basing himself on a scientific analysis of the events taking place in the present international political arena, clarified once again that all peaceloving people should firmly unite in the anti-imperialist, anti-war struggle, says NODONG SINMUN January 31 in a signed article titled "Unity of Peaceloving Forces Is Decisive Guarantee for Peace".

In order to wage more vigorously the peace movement on a world scale to deal a heavy blow at the imperialists' policy of aggression and war, it is necessary to decisively increase the strength of the popular masses in all countries, the internal forces, and achieve their unity to this end, the article notes, and says:

Unity is a source of indestructible might of the peaceloving forces and a decisive guarantee for victory.

In particular, to strengthen the unity of the peaceloving people is an important problem as the imperialists have formed an allied front in the international arena.

For the peaceloving people in confrontation with the allied forces of imperialism to check and frustrate their aggressive and belligerent manoeuvres and safeguard peace and security, it is imperative to strengthen their unity as never before.

If the world peaceloving people are united, their might will increase many a fold.

All people, excluding U.S. imperialists, the chieftain of aggression and war, and their followers and puppets, should firmly unite under the banner of peace against war.

An important problem in achieving the unity of the peaceloving people at the moment is to further strengthen support to and solidarity with the people's struggle against war and for peace in different parts of the world.

It is the consistent policy and principle of the government of our Republic to firmly unite with the people of all countries of the world in the struggle against the imperialists' policy of aggression and war and to safeguard peace.

Our people will join, in the future, too, the people of all countries of the world to resolutely struggle to frustrate the imperialists' aggressive and belligerent manoeuvres and safeguard world peace and security, under the banner of independence against imperialism and peace against war.

South Korea

Suit To Be Filed With GATT on U.S. GSP Move
SK301332 Seoul YONHAP in English
1325 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—South Korea plans to file a suit with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), charging that the United States with, unilaterally and on hardly convincing grounds, discarding its Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) favors to Seoul.

Expressing regrets over the U.S. step, Trade and Industry Minister Na Ung-pae said his government will formally raise the issue with the GATT.

In a statement, Na said the matter of excluding a developing country from the GSP program should not be decided unilaterally by the offering country.

He said the reasons for graduating South Korea and three other Asian countries from the GSP list are not very clear and that the U.S. decision will not be supported by the international community.

A source at the Trade and Industry Ministry noted that Korea with a per capita GNP of 2,800 U.S. dollars is still a developing country and pointed out that by American standards, a country automatically graduates from the GSP eligibility when its per capita income exceeds 8,500 dollars.

Na emphasized that the matter of removing GSP favors should be decided after consultations at multilateral trade organizations, such as the Uruguay round.

The U.S. Government Friday announced the removal of GSP favors for Korea and three other newly industrializing countries of Asia effective Jan. 2 next year.

Na said that the removal of GSP benefits will reduce Korea's exports to the United States by 200 million dollars a year.

U.S. Decision Creates 'Shock Wave'
SK300301 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
30 Jan 88 p 6

[By staff reporter Choe Won-sok]

[Text] The U.S. decision to lift its generalized system of preferences (GSP) favors on imports of Korean products has been generally expected in consideration of the unusually high U.S. pressure on the Korean government since the turn of this year.

Despite general expectations, the withdrawal of U.S. trade concessions, which Washington will formally announce within two weeks, generates a shock wave from business circles, especially from small and medium

businesses. As the European Community has decided also to scrap its GSP benefits for imported Korean products effective Jan. 1 this year, the nation's total exports are expected to substantially decrease.

The United States was scheduled to lift its GSP favors for Korean products in the 1990s.

But it has decided to advance the timing of GSP favor withdrawal in an attempt to quicken the rectification of its accumulating trade deficits with Korea.

It is customary that the beneficiaries of GSP favors will receive such trade concessions until their per capita income reaches more than \$5,000.

However as the nation's per capita income is still less than \$3,000, the removal of U.S. GSP benefits levied on imports of Korean products is generally regarded as devastating and premature.

Even though the nation's exports would be substantially decreased because of the lift of U.S. and EC's GSP benefits, the most troublesome is the nation's obligations in accordance with the "graduation" from them.

Among such obligations are the liberalization of all domestic markets including the still incipient capital market.

Therefore, many business experts are castigating the government for its failure to stop the removal of U.S. GSP benefits;

They said that the government has not exerted any efforts to dissuade the United States from lifting its trade concessions.

In reality, it seems that the government hasn't taken any steps because of its obsession with the three major current trade issues—cigarettes, beef and insurance—between Korea the United States.

The U.S. government is threatening to invoke Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act, the most retaliatory restriction on imports of Korean products, unless the Korean government opens the cigarette and insurance markets as well importing beef.

Some ranking government officials flatly acknowledged the lack of government efforts to prevent the removal of U.S. GSP favors.

However, they said that it was really impossible for the government to do so because of the nation's mounting trade surpluses with the United States.

As some 1,200 items have been shipped to the United States on GSP benefits, the removal will effectuate the imposition of an average 5 percent tariff rate on them, thereby lowering their price competitiveness on the U.L. market and consequently decreasing their shipments.

According to statistics compiled by the Trade-Industry Ministry, the nation's exports to the United States on GSP benefits last year amounted to \$2.5 billion.

The government predicted that the lift of U.S. GSP favors would decrease the annual shipments of such products under trade concessions by some 10 percent, worth \$200 million to \$300 million.

The removal of U.S. GSP benefits will deal a severe blow to the small and medium industries which share the largest portion of products exported to the United States on the benefits of trade concessions.

As a result, the government is mapping out a wide range of steps to reduce the burden of small and medium businesses due to the withdrawal of U.S. GSP concessions.

They reportedly include the reduction of various taxes and the supply of subsidies.

The government also plans to persuade small and medium industries to change their business.

New Foreign Trade Agency To Be Formed *SK010313 Seoul YONHAP in English* *0255 GMO 01 Feb 88*

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—South Korea, prompted by its failure in recent trade negotiations with the United States, has decided to create an independent agency in exclusive charge of foreign trade affairs under the direct control of the president, government and the ruling party sources said Monday.

The sources said the new agency tentatively named as Korea Trade Representative will go into operation either in April or in May with a cabinet minister level official as its head representative and four to five vice minister and assistant minister level officials as deputies.

The Korea Trade Representative will be a permanent body in charge of coordinating pertinent government ministries and of representing the government in trade talks with foreign countries, according to the sources.

They said the government plans to begin in early March, immediately after the inauguration of a new government, a series of inter-ministry talks for the creation of the trade representative.

President-elect No Tae-u and his government will take office on Feb. 25 in the country's first peaceful change of government in the 40-year constitutional history.

The government will empower the representatives of the new agency to finalize the government position after coordinating the positions of pertinent ministries.

The final say from the trade representative will overrule any of other suggestions from the pertinent ministries, and the ministries will have to follow the final decisions of the new agency.

The government will also authorize the new agency to solely represent the nation in trade talks with other countries, the sources said.

A senior government official said, in a series of recent trade talks with the United States, failure in coordinating the positions of pertinent ministries had brought about difficulties for the government to speak in single voice both in and out of the country.

Since the failure in producing any satisfactory outcome in the trade talks early this year with the United States has triggered a controversy inside the government on the proper way of the government representation in negotiations with foreign countries. [sentence as received]

Foreign ministry officials have complained that it was not a proper way of negotiating for deputy prime minister and economic planning minister Chong In-yong to have ignored diplomatic customs and gone directly into the talks with a working-level official of the United States.

Chong led a seven-member delegation comprising pertinent ministries to the Washington talks with the U.S. working-level officials headed by U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter without any prior preparatory contacts.

Chong's mission ended up in sheer failure in effect, bringing about in its wake trade suits by U.S. cigarette and beef exporters against South Korea.

The United States has warned that it will take a retaliatory trade action unless South Korea open its domestic markets wider to U.S. beef, cigarettes, and insurance firms among others and reduce its surging trade surplus with the United States.

Benefits of U.S. Forces Presence Contrasted

SK311037 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
29 Jan 88 p 2

["Reporter's Eye" column by Yi Chae-ho on: "Benefit-Giving Country and Benefit-Receiving Country"]

[Text] USIS in Korea published an article on "The Contribution of the U.S. Forces Stationed in South Korea to the South Korean Economy," using materials obtained from the U.S. forces in South Korea. This article draws our interest.

The article, carried in the December 1987 issue of the USIS organ "News Topics," indicates that in fiscal year 1986 alone, the U.S. forces in South Korea contributed \$1 billion to developing the South Korean economy. In other words, the wages of 22,700 Korean employees who work at U.S. forces units in Korea totaled \$231 million, the expenditure of U.S. soldier consumers in South Korea was \$118 million, and the expenditure for contracts and leases was \$566 million. Thus, a total of \$1 billion was turned in to the South Korean economy. This is 2% of the South Korean GNP (\$49.1 billion) in 1986.

The article also explains the number of Korean employees of the U.S. forces in South Korea, comparing it with major South Korean business enterprises. Supposing the U.S. forces in South Korea are a business enterprise with 68,443 employees (including the Korean employees), the U.S. forces, the article says, are the fourth largest business enterprise in South Korea, after the Hyundai Group with its 155,000 employees, the Samsung Group with 125,000, and the Daewoo Group with 89,000. Taking into consideration just the number of their Korean employees (22,700), the U.S. forces in South Korea are the sixth largest enterprise in South Korea after the Hyundai Group, the Samsung Group, the Daewoo Group, the Lucky-Kumsung Group, and Hyosong Group. On the other hand, the article indicates that what South Korea provides to the U.S. side for the U.S. forces in South Korea is almost nothing except for the land leased free of charge to the U.S. forces for use in their military camps. The article also indicates that free electricity and exemption from taxation for private automobiles are the benefits the U.S. forces have enjoyed and that this amounts to only \$72 million for 1 year. In a word, the article concludes that what South Korea provides for the U.S. forces in South Korea is only the land, which has been leased free of charge.

Although it seemingly takes the form of answering the question raised by a reader on "the contribution of the U.S. forces in South Korea to the South Korean economy," the article inwardly tries to stress that the United States provides many benefits for South Korea while South Korea has done almost nothing for the United States.

U.S. politicians who have more tenaciously called on South Korea to open its markets amid the currently increasing trade conflict between the two countries would have the same logic as this. Richard Gephardt, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, who is one of the candidates running for the U.S. Democratic Party's presidential nomination and who reportedly has strongly denounced South Korea's import policy, also has the same logic. He once warned that "South Korea should not forget the fact that the United States has kept its commitment to the security of South Korea."

However, such logic by these U.S. politicians seems to be out of balance. It is true that the United States has made a great contribution to the security of South Korea for

the past 40 years. However, using the U.S. forces in Korea as a lever, the United States has maintained its strategic interests of checking the Soviet Union and communist China and placing Japan under the sphere of U.S. influence. Many people have indicated that the U.S. forces in Korea have defended the national interests of the United States.

Regarding the relations between South Korea and the United States as the relations of a benefit-giving country and a benefit-receiving country is an unbalanced understanding. The anti-U.S. sentiment is born from such an unbalanced understanding.

Agreement With U.S. on Technology Leakage
SK310134 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
31 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Korea and the United States have agreed to hold annual consultations to cooperate closely in plugging leakage of high technologies and related information to Communist countries, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

The agreement came at a time when Korea is preparing full-fledged direct trade with Eastern European nations.

Korea has already opened a trade office in Hungary and Hungary will set up its trade office in Korea in March.

Korea will also open trade offices in East Germany, Yugoslavia and Poland in the near future for direct trade with those countries of the Soviet bloc.

Korea and the United States concluded an agreement designed to control the exports of strategic commodities and technical data to Communist nations last September.

The accord awaits the ratification by the National Assembly, which is likely to be made sometime during the first half of this year.

A ranking official at the ministry revealed that the first round of Korea-U.S. consultations is expected upon legislative approval of the bilateral agreement.

During the consultation, Korea and the United States will designate the kinds of strategic commodities and technical data which should be brought under the control of exports.

He revealed that John Hawes, U.S. principal deputy assistant secretary of state for politico-military affairs, will visit Korea on Feb. 15 for preparatory talks before the annual meeting.

Poland To Open Seoul Trade Office 'Soon'
SK310059 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
31 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Poland will soon open a trade office in Seoul, thus paving the way for direct trade between the Communist country and Korea, it was learned yesterday.

Poland will be the second Eastern European Communist country to open a trade office in Korea, following Hungary which recently decided to open its trade office in Seoul in March.

According to the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation (KOTRA) yesterday, a Polish-Japanese joint venture would soon set up a branch office in Seoul which will naturally serve as the Polish trade office in Korea.

KOTRA sources said that a senior Polish executive of the joint venture named P. Mulodawski, who is based in Tokyo, flew into Seoul on Tuesday and completed legal procedures for the opening of a branch office in Seoul.

The Polish-Japanese joint venture is named Agropol and was established between 20 Polish manufacturing companies and Japanese enterprises, and serves as the Polish gateway for trade with the free world in Asia.

The source said that the Seoul branch of Agropol would go into full operation from next month.

In the meantime, it is learned that KOTRA, a semi-governmental organization, has already obtained unofficial approval from the Polish government for the opening of a branch office in the Polish capital of Warsaw.

The corporation has already set up a trade office manned by two officials in the Hungarian capital city of Budapest in action last December.

Its office is the first Korean trade office ever established in the Communist bloc with which the nation has no diplomatic relations.

According to statistics, the gross national product of Poland was \$65.8 billion in 1986 and its per capita income \$3,760, with a population of 37.6 million.

In the same year, the Eastern European Communist country exported \$11.5 billion worth of goods, importing \$10.6 billion worth.

Its major export items are such mining products as coal, copper, zinc and silver, chemicals, ships and lumber.

In contrast, its major importing items are crude oil, natural gas, iron ore, raw rubber and other raw materials.

It was reported that during his visit to Seoul, Mulodawski hoped to export chemical products, foodstuffs, furs, hides and machineries to Korea with the opening of his company's branch office.

Meanwhile, business circles said that Yugoslavia and East Germany would soon set up trade offices in Seoul, following in the footsteps of Hungary and Poland.

Fishing Vessel Allowed in Chinese Waters

SK291310 Seoul YONHAP in English
1306 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—A South Korean fishing vessel has been allowed to operate in the sea under Chinese control, it was reported here Friday.

The pro-government SEOUL SHINMUN said that "No. 1 Haegum-ho" of the Hungjin Fisheries Co. entered the Chinese sea for the fishing operation after obtaining an approval directly from Chinese authorities.

It was the first time a South Korean ship was allowed to enter the Chinese sea for fishing expedition, the paper said, quoting authorities concerned. Despite the lack of formal ties between Seoul and Beijing, contacts between the two countries have been on the increase in the private sector in recent years.

The paper said the 680-ton ship, skippered by Ko Han-chin, is now in the sea off the southern island of Hainan, capping the ship owner's year-long negotiations with Chinese authorities through a pro-Chinese fishery firm based in Hong Kong.

The vessel is to give 15 percent of its catch to China in return for its operations off the Chinese waters rich in yellow corvina, stingray, cuttle fish and skate, the paper said.

Tourism Exchanges May Take 'Long Time'

SK300321 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
30 Jan 88 p 3

[Text] Travel industry personnel say it will take a long time for Korea to initiate tourism-oriented exchanges with East European countries and China.

They basically welcome the Wednesday announcement by the Transportation Ministry that it will "push ahead with tourism-oriented exchanges" with North Korea and Communist countries, which have no diplomatic relations with Seoul right now.

"In view of Korea's expanding relations with Soviet-bloc countries," a Global Tours Co. official said, "It seems reasonable that the government has expressed hopes for tourism exchanges with those countries."

But it will take a long time for Korea to be able to create the atmosphere for such exchanges, he predicted.

The domestic travel industry, he said, hopes Seoul and Beijing initiate contacts in the tourist industry even before they establish diplomatic relations.

"I think a lot of Koreans will be interested in visiting China for sightseeing, if they are given a chance," said Pak Yong-chun, vice president of the Korea Tourist Bureau Co., a private travel agency based in Seoul.

Few Chinese, however, would dare to tour Korea, he opined, but Seoul and Beijing could work out arrangements for foreigners visiting Korea to go to China without stopping in a third country.

For this purpose, he said, it is highly desirable that the two countries open a direct air route as soon as possible.

Chinese hotel and restaurant employees could receive training in Korea, in the vic of hoteliers. Hotel management in China, they said, needs to be improved.

So far, Chinese authorities have declined to issue entry visas to travelers from south Korea. Some Koreans have visited China to see long-separated relatives, do business or participate in international gatherings.

Seoul also refuses to receive ordinary Chinese tourists.

Pak of the KTB said citizens of East European countries tend to travel to Soviet-bloc countries, "So I don't expect many tourists will visit Korea from East European countries in the near future."

He said some persons other than athletes and officials may come here for sightseeing during the Seoul Olympic Games, which start Sept. 17.

Should Seoul and East European countries agree to exchanges of tourists, the Korea Tourist Association says, Korea should issue visas through trade offices because there are no diplomatic relations.

A senior official of the KTA said Korea needs to launch a long-term publicity campaign aimed at Soviet-bloc countries.

"It may be also desirable that Korea actively participate in international travel fairs held in those countries," he said.

Korean travel firms are scheduled to participate in an international tour fair in the Soviet Union in March next year, according to KTA sources.

The Korea National Tourism Corp. last year opened a branch office in Hong Kong in a bid to initiate tourism exchanges with mainland China.

Tourism officials from Korea and China are said to have talked to one another at informal functions of international tourism conferences.

KTA officials believe south and north Korea could make arrangements under which foreign travelers visiting the north could come to Seoul directly.

Intelligence Agency Ban From Politics Sought
SK310113 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
31 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Members of the Democratization and Reconciliation Council have called for the grant of one cabinet seat without portfolio to the largest opposition party and ban involvement in political affairs by intelligence agencies.

In a free-wheeling debate, members of the first subpanel of the council, centering on democratic reforms, also demanded the reduction in power of presidential staff and the beefing-up of authority for the prime minister and the Cabinet.

The council, initiated by the ruling Democratic Justice Party as a provisional advisory body for the president-elect, has touched on such sensitive issues as abuse of power of the presidential security force and intelligence agencies, so far a taboo.

In other divisions, some proposed the formation of a fact-finding mission to reveal the truth of the bloody military suppression of the civil uprising in Kwangju in May 1980, one of the heaviest burdens of both the Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u administrations.

DJP officials who organized the "independent supra-partisan" council said that all contents in their final recommendation to No would be honored by the new government.

DJP officials are actually worried by the council's growing stretch of issues to possibly include the investigation of various scandals including abuses of power by the Saemaul Movement Headquarters run by the President's brother, Kyong-hwan.

The voices of council members are even tougher than those of opposition lawmakers.

In a Friday session, No Chong-hyon, a Yonsei University professor, noted that mechanisms of the powerful presidential staff, his security force and the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) are "too large and apt to go beyond the commission."

He said that the president is only to give visions and the prime minister is virtually in charge of all state affairs.

Former deputy prime minister Yi Han-pin viewed it more important for the next president to revamp operations of the administration rather than revise its structure.

He hoped for the reduction in Chongwadae's power, the allotment of one ministerial post for the opposition and recruitment of those with political careers and "political sense" as Cabinet members instead of bureaucrats.

"The next president is desired to prevent intelligence agencies from intervening in political affairs and to form a three-member ad hoc committee for bureaucratic reform," he stressed.

Kim Tu-hyon, former president of the Korea Bar Association, also pointed out that there are "too many" organizations for surveillance and control," citing the NSP, the Defense Security Command, and the police.

Their expanded mechanisms should be streamlined, hopefully to be unified, and their functions should be confined to anti-espionage activity.

Along with the guarantee of a free press, he went on, early introduction of local autonomy is required as prerequisite to "solid democratization."

Besides the present one deputy prime minister for economic planning, he offered the establishment of one more for diplomacy and national security.

Hong Song-chol, a North Korean refugee representative, asserted denying upper hands of the presidential staff power over the Cabinet.

Kim Kyong-su, former president of Sungkyunkwan University, noted that the Education Minister has degraded authority of professors by ordering them to follow its directives, especially disciplinary measures against student activists, "without condition."

Meetings of officials from relevant organizations, held by the ministry to work out steps against student activism, had once been in the sway of an active Army colonel and reasonable opinion was usually turned down.

Policemen Make 'Declarations of Conscience'
SK310002 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
31 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Voices demanding independence of the police force from political influence are growing among the rank and file policemen these days.

Following "declarations of conscience" made by a police lieutenant and a combat policeman early this week, the Alumni Association of the National Police College issued Friday a declaration calling for police independence from "outside influence."

Thirty-five police officers, the first class graduated from the National Police College, huddled at Hanilgwang restaurant in downtown Seoul Thursday afternoon along

with 30 representatives of the second and third class and the graduating cadets, now seniors of the police elite course, to discuss police neutrality in connection with politics.

At the meeting, they adopted a declaration, "Our Views on Police Neutrality" in the name of the Alumni Association of the National Police College.

In the declaration, the junior police officers said, "Police neutrality is a prerequisite for the realization of true democracy.

"Police neutrality is not a thing subject to political compromise, but a precondition if police are to carry out their inherent duty of keeping public security and social order," they added.

Admitting that police have acted as a mere enforcer of orders given by the political powers-that-be in the past and subsequently have become an object of scorn by people, they asserted that the only way to correct the past image is to guarantee police neutrality in terms of politics.

The young police officers confessed in the declaration that they had been plunged into deep agony by confrontations with citizens and students in the vortex of the mass protest last June, as young men of the Republic of Korea and as policemen who were taught to honor the profession of policeman.

In the declaration, they expressed a deep apology for various police irregularities which occurred in the course of democratization and pledged to make every effort, along with their seniors, to do their genuine duty.

Meanwhile, Kwon Pok-kyong, the director-general of the National Police Headquarters, yesterday expressed regret over the declaration for police neutrality made by junior police officers.

He said, "It is undesirable that police officers express their views on police affairs directly through the news media without consultation or without reporting to their seniors.

The police chief said that he will take appropriate measures in order to prevent recurrences of such declarations after an investigation into the case.

In a meeting of NPH officers hurriedly convened Friday night after the incident, top police authorities have reportedly decided not to take any disciplinary action against the promoters of the issuance of the declaration.

The collective action by the junior police officers comes as a great shock to the faltering police organization shaken by the arrest of former police head Kang Min-chang in connection with the cover-up scheme of the torture-death of Pak Chong-chol.

DJP 'Affirmative' on Neutrality

SK310006 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
31 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] The ruling Democratic Justice Party yesterday responded affirmatively to the recent moves for the establishment of the political neutrality of the police.

Secretary general Sin Myong-po said he thought such moves within the police organization were "very affirmative."

Sin expressed hope that the police will be faithful to their fundamental duties of keeping law and order in the days ahead.

Prosecutor Sees No Need for Reinvestigation

SK310036 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
31 Jan 88 p 3

[Text] The prosecution authorities do not intend to reinvestigate the scandalous case of alleged sexual harassment of a woman suspect by a police investigator.

Meeting with the press, Prosecutor General Yi Chong-nam said he does not feel there is a need for reinvestigation, citing the lack of any hard evidence incriminating the investigator.

He went on to say, however, that it is proper and appropriate that the case be dealt with again by the court now that the supreme court has accepted a petition of the attorney for Miss Kwon In-suk, on the grounds that their demands are reasonable.

The attorneys first filed a petition with the appeals court for arbitration over the decision of the Inchon district prosecutors' office not to indict police investigator Mun Kwi-tong.

The appeals court turned down the petition. Challenging the decision, the attorneys sent the same petition to the Supreme Court.

The nation's top prosecutor said there is nothing false in the statement of Inchon district prosecution in July of 1986 that no sexual harassment was committed by Mun questioning Miss Kon at Puchon police station.

The problem is the difference in the two sides' views of the facts on which the investigation records were established. As a corollary, prosecutors involved in the investigation would not be taken to task because there was nothing wrong with the investigation, said Prosecutor General Yi.

Deputy Prosecutor-General Choe Sang-yop, who sat beside top prosecutor Yi, said there was no "outside" pressure during the investigation in 1986.

It is learned that now the appeals court will review the petition again and most likely follow the decision of the Supreme Court.

Then, a special prosecutor to be appointed from among the attorneys who wrote the petition will initiate indictment of Mun for trial.

Policeman Mun was fired following a scandal which blew up over the case which occurred in the heat of antigovernment protest in 1986, but he was spared from prosecution, on charges of sexual harassment.

The case drew nation-wide interest because Miss Kwon, 25, is a dropout from Seoul National University and an activist in the labor movement.

Policeman 'Unburdened'

SK310049 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
31 Jan 88 p 3

[Text] Former policeman Mun Kwi-tong, 41, who was fired in connection with his alleged involvement in sexually harassing a woman suspect, said he felt rather unburdened to stand trial.

"I have been in deep agony as people unconditionally regard me as a culprit. But now I felt good at heart to get the stigma off my back by trial."

Mun, however, worried about news used to be focused on him in the course of the trial, giving his family members undue distress.

He told reporters he did not move his house to avoid people's attention as he is innocent on the matter.

He has run a shoemaking factory in downtown Puchon, Kyonggi-do, since February last year only to meet bankruptcy due to a lack of know-how and experience.

He said he was not given any retirement allowance when he left the police because he was fired in July 1986. He set up the factory with funds from his mother, who runs a laundry shop to live with money supplied by his mother and elder brother. [sentence as published]

On the other hand, as the news on the court's decision was made public, his 32-year-old wife and other family members locked themselves up in their apartment, cutting off outside contact.

According to Mun's neighbors, his wife has been sociable, attending a nearby church even after the case involving her husband was made public.

After the factory business closed up, Mun has reportedly dropped by nearby real estate agencies and an office of a parking lot, playing cards with his friends.

Kwon Seeks To Reveal Truth

SK310044 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
31 Jan 88 p 3

[Text] Kwon In-suk, the alleged sex-torture victim, said that she hopes her case will serve as a momentum to reveal the true pictures of other offenses which remain veiled.

Meeting reporters at the Supreme Court press room yesterday, Kwon said she also wishes that the case will encourage people for their continuous struggle for democracy, which seems to have withered to some degree since the Presidential Election last month.

"I am neither happy nor thankful for the court's decision. Rather, I feel sorry for the Supreme Court's rejection of the appeal against five other police officers. The decision seems to me another act by the court to diminish the impact, which, I believe, will finally block a thorough investigation of Mun.

The expellee of Seoul National University said she came to the court at first only with the hope of proving the truth behind the case. "I just hoped that people would believe what I told the prosecution about Mun's unpardonable behavior. But now, the case seems to go beyond my personal matter. I will continue to fight, through both political struggles and court procedures, until all the truth is made public."

Kwon, who was released from prison on parole in July 1987 while serving the 18-month prison term she was sentenced to, generally kept cool while answering reporters' questions, though became a little excited briefly.

She recollected that many prosecutors who were investigating Mun Kwi-dong seemed, at least to her, very enthusiastic at first about discovering the truth. "As what Mun testified proved false one by one, the prosecutors got angry at Mun's meanness. Therefore, I did not doubt that he would be indicted."

But unlike her expectation, the prosecution decided to suspend indictment of Mun in July 1986, dismissing as "untrue" an allegation that Senior Patroman Mun sexually abused Kwon.

Moreover, the prosecution accused Kwon and some of her activist colleagues of having fabricated various sexual abuse stories for the purpose of damaging the prestige of law-enforcement agencies and abetting and escalating antigovernment struggles.

Kwon said she heard the prosecution's decision not to indict Mun. "While the prosecution was conducting an investigation on Mun, I believed the prosecution would surely indict the ex-policeman. I could not believe that the prosecution made such a decision by itself. I felt sure that the prosecution must have been forced to do so," the 25-year-old former student activist noted.

Commenting on the prosecution's accusation against her and her colleagues at that time, Kwon said, "They tried to make a girl, who appealed to laws for help an evil witch fabricating the truth. [sentence as published] By doing so, they violated not only laws but basic human morals."

She said she had not had more difficult times during the court procedures or in jail because she is a woman. But she suffered from a feeling of guilt toward her parents and other family members as they had to suffer too.

Miss Kwon is now living in her home in Wonju, Kangwon-do, often visiting her elder sister in Seoul.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

French Official on Joint Arms Production

*BK291504 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay
1430 GMT 29 Jan 88*

[Text] The French secretary of state for defense, Mr Jacques Boyon, said today that he and the country's leaders had discussed a proposed joint venture for the production of military goods in Malaysia. He said the program will directly involve Malaysians in the production of military weaponry in return for Malaysia's agreement to purchase military equipment from France.

He said Deputy Defense Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustafa is thinking of the possibility of producing natural rubber-based military equipment because Malaysia is a major natural rubber producer in the world. He said this in a statement issued in Kuala Lumpur at the conclusion of his 4-day visit to Malaysia.

Patrols To Be Intensified in South China Sea

*BK011221 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0834 GMT 1 Feb 88*

[Text] Kuantan, Malaysia, Feb 1 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Royal Malaysian Navy [RMN] will intensify patrols in the South China Sea to help safeguard national security and economic interests, its Region One Commander, Rear-Admiral V. Ramachandran said Monday.

Developments had turned the South China Sea into a strategic area as it was a major passageway between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, he said.

The area was also rich in oil, gas and other minerals as well as marine resources, the bulk of which was found in Malaysia's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), he said when officiating at a ceremony to mark the arrival of two RMN vessels—KD [Kapal Diraja] Marikh and KD Mysytari—at the RMN base near here along the north-east coast of peninsula Malaysia.

The two vessels would beef up the RMN's fleet of patrol vessels here, he added. The base now has 10 patrol vessels.

KD Marikh, is the first RMN vessel to be built by Malaysia Shipyard and Engineering while KD Musytari, was bought from South Korea.

The rear-admiral disclosed the RMN would conduct a joint exercise with Thailand, codenamed "Thamal 10" from March 7 to 12.

The annual exercise will involve two RMN vessels, one Malaysian Marine Police patrol boat and two Thai Navy vessels and more than 140 personnel.

MCA Youth Chief Sentenced to 2 Years

*BK291215 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
1037 GMT 29 Jan 88*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 29 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The chief of the youth section of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) and once a deputy minister, Kee Yong Wee was Friday sentenced to two years' jail and fined M\$2.5 Million (about U.S.\$1 million) by the sessions court here on two amended charges of criminal breach of trust involving M\$3.3 million (U.S.\$1.32 million).

The money belonged to a deposit-taking cooperative society, known locally as "Komuda", of which Kee was chairman. Komuda was taken over by Malaysia's central bank and is being restructured [as received] together with some 20 other such societies, following widespread mismanagement and misappropriation.

Under the original charges, Kee could have been sentenced to 20 years' jail and fine. He pleaded guilty to the amended charges.

In passing sentence, the judge said public interest plainly required that the accused should receive punishment which would not only fit the crime but which would also act as a deterrent to other persons who might be similarly disposed.

He also later rejected an application by defence counsel for bail pending appeal against the sentence and a further application for a stay of execution.

The MCA (Malaysian Chinese Association) is the biggest ethnic Chinese party in the country and the second biggest in the 13-member National Front coalition government.

Singapore

New Zealand Reiterates Defense Support

*BK310814 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT
31 Jan 88*

[Excerpts] Singapore, Jan 31 (AFP)—New Zealand has assured Singapore and Malaysia of its defence commitment to them after its planned closure of a permanent base in the area by 1989, Wellington's Defence Minister Bob Tizard said here Sunday.

Mr. Tizard told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that during meetings he and his senior officials had with their counterparts in the two countries over the past 10 days, assurances were given that New Zealand was developing a full scale overseas military deployment capability.

He said New Zealand was re-equipping its forces with new arms, ships and planes under a long-term plan and creating a ready reaction force that would be sent on regular exercises in Singapore and Malaysia to maintain preparations for civil emergencies and external aggression.

New Zealand, Britain and Australia are committed to the security of Singapore and Malaysia under the 1971 Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) put together in the wake of Britain's military withdrawal from its colonies. [passage omitted]

Mr. Tizard said he found "complete understanding" in Singapore of Wellington's position, but further assurances were needed in Malaysia, because of fears of a withdrawal from the region by Britain and the United States. [passage omitted]

Australian Defence Minister Kim Beazley told AFP during a similar confidence-building mission to Malaysia and Singapore last November that Canberra would supplement its rotation of aircraft with the continuous presence of at least one naval ship in the area.

Mr. Tizard said New Zealand was developing the possibility of independent long-range deployment of frigates to Southeast Asia.

Wellington had re-equipped its Army and was in the process of building naval ships that could operate 6,000 nautical miles away from base, he said.

New Zealand was looking for a logistics support vessel to carry helicopters, tanks and heavy artillery on planned overseas deployments, while the defence plan envisaged new planes and larger helicopters for anti-submarine warfare, as well as the upgrading of some aircraft.

While New Zealand's Army, Navy and Air Force would continue to participate in joint exercises in Singapore and Malaysia, Mr. Tizard said, forces from the two Southeast Asian allies would be invited to manoeuvres in New Zealand.

Mr. Tizard leaves Singapore Monday for a three day visit to Indonesia.

Iran's Larijani Meets With Official
NC300643 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister [for Economic and International Affairs] Mr Larijani met with Mr Wong Kan Seng, Singapore minister of state for foreign affairs, in Singapore yesterday. The Central News Unit reports that during this meeting the two sides pointed to the expansion of relations and cooperation between the two countries and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Mr Larijani arrived in Singapore on Thursday after a visit to Thailand.

Military Plane With Italy Under Consideration
BK300654 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT
30 Jan 88

[Text] Singapore, Jan 30 (AFP)—Italy and Singapore are close to agreement on a breakthrough defence deal to jointly design, manufacture and market a new light military plane, the Italian state-owned aircraft-maker Agusta said.

Agusta President Raffaello Teti told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here Friday that talks his team held over three days with top Singapore Defence Ministry and investment board officials had brought negotiations which started nearly two years ago to a head.

He said Agusta's proposal for a made-in-Singapore plane had been agreed to in principle and that only a formal accord incorporating the terms of the partnership and other details remained to be worked out.

"We hope the deal will be signed soon," he said.

Mr. Teti said the plan called for building an extended version of the Siai Marchetti S211 basic jet trainer with a more powerful engine, reinforced wings and improved electronics to enable the plane to carry missiles and rockets.

Singapore has 30 S211's, most of them assembled by the Defence Ministry's Singapore Aircraft Industries (SAI) group. The S211, costing between two and three million U.S. dollars apiece, can be used in combat roles.

Mr. Teti said the proposed plane, tentatively called the S211 Mark II, would feature a navigational attack system and could take about five years to develop. It could be in service by the end of the next decade, he said.

The SAI group's main achievement so far in fixed wing aircraft work has been refurbishing and upgrading McDonnell Douglas A4 Skyhawk fighter bombers bought second-hand from the United States.

The deal would be Agusta's first manufacturing venture outside North America and Europe and would give it a foothold in the region. Agusta registered a unit here called Agusta Aviation Far East PTE Ltd. last year in preparation for a joint venture with SAI.

Mr. Teti said an agreement with SAI would lead to Agusta subcontracting the manufacturing of some parts of other aircraft models to SAI companies.

He said that Agusta would be the majority shareholder in the proposed joint venture here.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Reports on Talks With Sihanouk

Returns to Phnom Penh

*BK291318 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 29 Jan 88*

[Text] Comrade Hun Sen, Politburo member of the KPRP Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and PRK minister for foreign affairs, returned home in the afternoon of 29 January after successfully completing his second round of talks with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in France.

Greeting the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers at Pochentong airport were Comrade Bou Thang, Politburo member and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Chea Soth, Politburo member and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Say Chhum, member of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of agriculture; Comrade Yos Son, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the party Central Committee's Foreign Relations Department; Comrade Tie Banh, alternate member of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of communications, transport, and posts; Comrade Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Mrs Bop Rasi, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and many other leaders of party, state, and mass organizations.

Comrade Ngo Dien, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SRV; Comrade (Nilahat), charge d'affaires of the Lao Embassy; Comrade Yuriy Ivanovich Razdukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the USSR; and A.K. Pandey, charge d'affaires of the Republic of India to Cambodia were also present to welcome the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Addresses Political Bureau Meeting

*BK010529 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0436 GMT
1 Feb 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh, 1 Feb (SPK)—The Political Bureau of the KPRP Central Committee termed the second Hun Sen-Sihanouk meeting a new step toward settling the Cambodian problem on the path of national reconciliation and the guarantee of the nonreturn of the Pol Pot genocidal regime in Cambodia, contributing to maintaining peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

At its meeting held on 30 January in Phnom Penh to listen to a report by Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the KPRP Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister, on his meeting with Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, a Paris suburb, the Political Bureau thought that the path toward a political problem to the

Cambodian problem is having many difficulties because the reactionary forces are still trying to hinder the dialogue process through a subversive war aimed at returning the bloody Pol Pot regime to Cambodia. It clearly expressed the PRK's good will to resolve the Cambodian problem through negotiations and acclaimed the continuation of future talks between Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk to reach an equitable solution.

The Political Bureau also praised the results of the meeting between Chairman Hun Sen and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 14 January 1988 in New Delhi. It profoundly thanked India for its contribution to settling the Cambodian problem and its support for the Cambodian people in national defense and construction.

It thought that the meetings between Chairman Hun Sen and E. Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the CPSU and foreign minister of the USSR, on 26 January in Moscow; and Nguyen Co Thach, member of the Political Bureau of the CPV Central Committee and Vietnamese foreign minister in Hanoi, marked a new development in the relations between the parties, states, and people of Cambodia, the USSR, and the SRV.

Sends Letter to People

*BK011323 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1102 GMT
1 Feb 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Feb 1—The dismantlement of the People's Republic of Kampuchea before the general election is not the correct way for a political settlement of the Kampuchean problem in which all parties have to make concessions to search a commonly acceptable solution.

This was stated by Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, in a letter addressed on Jan 30 to his countrymen after his return home on Jan 29 from France where he held second round of talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

He said: "To us, to dismantle the PRK is to commit suicide and to allow an easy return of the Khmer opposition forces including the Pol Potists who have, over the past nine years, failed to control a single inch of the Kampuchean territory in spite of their all-out endeavours in the military, political and diplomatic fields. For our part, we have made great efforts to defend our homeland and take a firm control of the whole territory with the people's power established across the country."

Hun Sen informed the countrymen that during the second two-day meeting, he discussed with Sihanouk five questions: the timetable for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea and the liquidation of the Pol Pot force, an important tool in the re-establishment in Kampuchea of a genocidal regime, and the

cessation of outside interference in Kampuchea's internal affairs as well as the use of Thailand's territory and its assistance to the Khmer reactionary forces in opposing the Kampuchean people; the establishment of a coalition government; the future political system in Kampuchea, the principles for an independent, neutral and nonaligned Kampuchea; and international guarantee and control.

Dealing with the first question, Hun Sen said that the total pullout of Vietnamese army volunteers from Kampuchea must be concomitant with the guarantee for the non-return of the genocidal regime and the cessation of outside interference in Kampuchea's internal affairs. With regard to the second question concerning the establishment of a coalition government, Hun Sen said that the two sides deemed it necessary to set up a coalition government and have different political parties in Kampuchea. However, he said, the two sides did not reach an agreement on the time for the establishment of such a government. The Sihanouk side's view was that such a government is to be set up before the general election by dismantling the People's Republic of Kampuchea as well as the Democratic Kampuchea. The PRK side held that the establishment of the coalition government must be done after the general election because the People's Republic of Kampuchea was set up by the election with the participation of the Kampuchean people, and only the Kampuchean people themselves have the right to dismantle this regime.

On the other hand, the demand for the liquidation of the PRK will only create favourable conditions for the come-back of the Pol Potists for another massacre of the Kampuchean people, not mentioning the national security and social order in the period pending the election for the National Assembly and new constitution.

So, if such a coalition government is set up before a general election we find it inequitable and unreasonable, because we who have everything will have to relinquish everything, and those who have nothing will gain everything. This will create opportunity for the latter to return to Kampuchea, establishing in the country their political and military regime, which, over the past nine years, has gained nothing however hard they have tried in the political, military and diplomatic fields. In short, we will give them everything whereas they will offer us nothing.

For equality and reasonableness, we have put forth a formula, that is to retain the present status quo in Kampuchea and set up an electoral committee for the organization of the general election under international supervision, and elect the National Assembly which will issue a new constitution defining a political formula in the Kampuchean state and setting up a coalition government. Such a process will ensure the equality and guarantee of the Kampuchean people's right to self-determination. We are determined to respect the return of the election.

On the future political system in Kampuchea: The two sides agreed to let the Kampuchean people decide upon the future political system in the country. We consider that only the Kampuchean people themselves have the right to choose a political system conformable with their aspiration and their specific character. The Kampuchean people's decision can be done by voting for their representatives in the National Assembly which will adopt a constitution on the political system in Kampuchea.

With regard to the principles of an independent, neutral and nonaligned Kampuchea, the two sides have reached identical views. I have expressed clearly at the talks that neutrality and nonalignment are not to associate ourselves with any military bloc and to ensure neither foreign forces nor military bases in Kampuchea. The Kampuchean territory will not be used to oppose any other countries and vice versa, other countries' territory will also not be used to oppose Kampuchea. Kampuchea must not interfere in other countries' internal affairs and the latter must not interfere in Kampuchea's internal affairs. Kampuchea will establish friendly relations with all other countries regardless of their political systems, and support the peaceful settlement of international conflicts.

On the last question, Hun Sen said: "The two sides discussed the need to convene an international conference outside the framework of the United Nations to guarantee implementation of agreements reached. They also agreed that there must be an international supervision commission organized by the international conference or by Kampuchean sides with the participation of several countries. The PRK side together with that of Sihanouk agreed to ask the Republic of India to be president of such a commission.

Hun Sen said that the path toward a political solution to the Kampuchean problem is fraught with difficulties and complexities since the war is concerned by several parties and countries. Although we have embarked on negotiations it is only the forum of the two sides and the other two sides still reject the talks and nurse their attempts to restore the genocidal Pol Pot regime. On the other hand, he continued, the international reactionary forces who are playing with confrontation are still using the warmongering groups in Kampuchea to continue causing bloodshed in our country.

Hun Sen urged the Kampuchean people to try harder so as to successfully carry out the PRK's policy of national reconciliation and not to allow the return of genocide in Kampuchea, and not to permit anyone to make use of this policy to destroy the peaceful life of the Kampuchean people.

Sihanouk Representative Press Communique
BK300720 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer
in Cambodian 0500 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The office of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's representative in Cambodia and Asia has issued an official press communique on the issues discussed by

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Mr Hun Sen during their talks held in France on 20 and 21 January in order to seek a political solution to the Cambodian problem. The press communique described the main points of the talks which stressed the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and future preparations for peace in Cambodia.

Concerning the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk called for the withdrawal as soon as possible, by this year or by 1989 at the latest. Mr Hun Sen replied that this withdrawal must be done within 24 months in 3 stages.

On another point, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk proposed the dismantling of the PRK in Phnom Penh. But Mr Hun Sen said that this cannot be done before the general elections and before knowing the results of those elections. Moreover, Mr Hun Sen did not demand the dismantling of Democratic Kampuchea before knowing the real result of the Cambodian people's general elections.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk demanded the dismantling of the PRK before the formation of a provisional Cambodian government to organize the general elections because these elections cannot be held under the PRK regime which is installed by Vietnam.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk proposed that the general elections should be held under the supervision of the international control commission and in the presence of an international peace-keeping force. However, the samdech clearly stressed that he would not return to Phnom Penh as long as the PRK remains undissolved, according to his demand.

Concerning the provisional Cambodian government that the samdech proposed for formation in the second stage of the Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Cambodia, it is to be participated in by the four Cambodian parties: Democratic Kampuchea, headed by Khieu Samphan; FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk; the KPNLF, headed by His Excellency Son Sann; and the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime. In this four-party coalition government, there will also be a four-party defense minister's office; Mr Hun Sen did not make any comment.

Another point proposed by the samdech is the presence in Cambodia of the international control commission and an international peace-keeping force composed of countries disinterested in the conflict in Cambodia, such as France, Morocco, Senegal, and Sweden.

The samdech does not want to establish a provisional Cambodian government before such an international control commission and an international peace-keeping force are formed in Cambodia.

Sihanouk Resigns From Coalition Government *HK300850 Hong Kong AFP in English 0834 GMT 30 Jan 88*

[By Pierre-Antoine Donnet]

[Excerpts] Beijing, Jan 30 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk announced here Saturday that he was stepping down "permanently" as head of the Cambodian resistance and cutting off peace talks with the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh regime.

In an exclusive interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Prince Sihanouk said the tripartite Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) had become a "monster" which did not represent the interests of Cambodia or its people.

He also said continued peace talks with Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen were out of the question, although he indicated he was ready to talk to Vietnamese representatives in an effort to resolve the Cambodian conflict.

The 65-year-old former Cambodian monarch said that the nationalist faction in the coalition led by Son Sann had been "extremely hostile" towards him for years and that the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge had a plan to retake power after the departure of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.

"I therefore have the honor to declare that as of January 30, 1988, I have permanently, irrevocably and irreversibly resigned from my duties as President of Democratic Kampuchea and the tripartite Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea," he said.

The prince stressed that his decision to become what he called a "free man" had been taken after "mature reflexion and many nights of insomnia."

"There is an extraordinary ideological and personal incompatibility" as well as hostility between the three Cambodian resistance factions, the prince said in the interview at his Beijing residence.

The coalition had become an "abominable monster" which came under pressure from its multiple "patrons," he said. "It's appalling. I was never comfortable. I have never suffered so much, even under the (1951-53) French protectorate."

"I have never been so humiliated (as when I led the CGDK)," he added.

"Now that I am no longer president of Democratic Kampuchea, I am once again a man. A man like any other. A free man. That makes all the difference," the prince said with emotion. [passage omitted]

In announcing his decision to AFP before informing friendly governments, Prince Sihanouk said: "I am presenting everyone, and above all the sponsors (of the coalition), with a fait accompli. They cannot put pressure on me. What's done is done."

He said that even his wife, Princess Monique, had not been informed.

Analysts said the prince's decision had virtually ruled out any hope for a negotiated settlement between the resistance and Vietnam in the near future.

They also said that the prince's move was likely to annoy China and ASEAN countries which have insisted on unity within the coalition if Vietnam is to remove its estimated 140,000 troops from Cambodia. [passage omitted]

Prince Sihanouk said that his son, Prince Norodom Rannarit, would remain within the CGDK and stay on as commander-in-chief of his forces, the Sihanoukist National Army.

Neither the resistance coalition or the pro-Vietnamese government are capable of representing an independent Cambodia, he said.

"It's really a harem," he said, speaking of the coalition. "But you know, when your three wives bicker and fight, it's impossible."

The prince stressed that although he was stepping down as president and quitting the coalition it did not mean that he would no longer do anything for his country.

"Now that I'm free, I will be able to shout, scream, speak the truth," he said. "I assure you that I am going to take up my staff and plead the just cause of Cambodia."

Prince Sihanouk said that the solution for an independent Cambodia would be the deployment of an international peace-keeping force prior to disarming the combatants.

France, he said, should send most of the force and play the role that history demands it play.

Diplomats, Analysts Views

*BK301302 Hong Kong AFP in English 1233 GMT
30 Jan 88*

[By Michael Adler]

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 30 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk's decision Saturday to step down as leader of the Cambodian resistance and cut off peace talks with Phnom Penh comes as a surprise but the prince remains committed to peace, diplomats and analysts said here.

The prince announced in Beijing Saturday that he was stepping down "permanently" as head of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), which has been fighting some 140,000 Vietnamese troops, in Cambodia since 1979 to prop up the Phnom Penh regime.

An analyst here said it was especially unexpected that the prince chose the Chinese capital as the place to announce his withdrawal from the coalition.

Prince Sihanouk's coalition partner Son Sann, head of a nationalist faction in the tripartite coalition, said in Paris last week that the prince was "playing Vietnam's game" by proposing, in talks with Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen, a bipartite government that would divide the tripartite resistance.

The prince said that the CGDK, formed with Chinese backing in 1982, had become an "abominable monster," adding that Mr. Son Sann's faction had been "extremely hostile" to him for years and that the Khmer Rouge had a plan to retake power after the departure of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.

He also broke off the peace talks begun December with Mr. Hun Sen in France, the first parleys between warring Cambodian factions since Vietnam ousted the Khmer Rouge regime in January 1979.

Analysts and diplomats here said the prince appeared to have two goals in his move Saturday, and may not even be defying his Chinese supporters.

First, he was aiming to force his resistance allies to back his diplomacy and second, to free himself to pursue peace on his own if they remained aloof.

Mr. Hun Sen has refused to form a coalition government until the Khmer Rouge, the CGDK's military muscle, are "eliminated." The group is held responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians while ruling the country from 1975-1979.

"Prince Sihanouk usually has something in mind when he resigns," said one diplomat. "But he's reversed himself so many times recently it's hard to see what he means."

"Maybe he is trying to put pressure on the Khmer Rouge. Usually when he's resigned, he wanted to get some kind of statement of support," he said.

"I think he's trying to put pressure on China and ASEAN (the non-communist Association of Southeast Asian Nations) for support," he added.

"Maybe he did it in Beijing for that reason, to show the Chinese that he is serious," the diplomat said, noting that the Khmer Rouge need Chinese military supplies.

"But they also need Prince Sihanouk's good name as a cover for international respectability," he said. The prince, who has ruled in Cambodia as monarch, prime minister and head of state, is seen as essential to any peace accord.

Another analyst said the prince was unlikely to defy China so blatantly, especially in Beijing, and may have had tacit Chinese support for the move.

He said the prince, who at the age of 65 is said to be anxious to return to Phnom Penh, was now free to pursue a bipartite arrangement with Phnom Penh.

The prince, irritated by the divisions in the CGDK, took leave of absence in May as leader of the CGDK. This cleared the way for his talks December 2-4 with Mr. Hun Sen.

But the prince on December 10 called off further talks when his resistance partners refused to join him at the negotiating table unless Vietnam were present. He reversed this decision five days later, saying his non-communist Southeast Asian allies wanted him to continue.

The prince offered in a second round of talks January 19-20 with Mr. Hun Sen to set up a two-party provisional government, leaving out his CGDK partners.

The Khmer Rouge, KPNLF and China, insist that Vietnam, the occupying power, should be present at peace talks. Hanoi says the Cambodian factions should settle among themselves.

Sihanouk on PRC Reaction

HK310826 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT
31 Jan 88

[By Pierre-Antoine Donnet]

[Text] Beijing, Jan 31 (AFP)—In announcing his resignation as president of the Cambodian resistance, Prince Norodom Sihanouk spoke candidly of his coalition partners and his relationship with their principal backer, China.

Prince Sihanouk, who meets Monday with Chinese Communist Party general secretary Zhao Ziyang, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in a weekend interview that China would not be pleased with his decision to quit.

But he anticipated that China would remain a friend until his death, and that there was no question of betrayal.

"The Chinese are gentlemen (and) will always continue to treat me well. I will never break away from China. Never. Never. Every time that China wants to see me, to consult me, I'll come back," he said.

Looking towards his meeting with Mr. Zhao, the 65-year-old former Cambodian monarch said: "It will be hard."

"It will be a bit sad, because it cannot be said that he will be happy by the event of January 30 (Prince Sihanouk's resignation announcement)... I cannot say that China will be happy to learn this news," he said.

Prince Sihanouk said there was "an extraordinary ideological and personal incompatibility... an extraordinary hostility" within the tripartite Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK).

The resistance government is recognized by the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which rejects the Phnom Penh regime and its supporters in Vietnam who keep an estimated 140,000 troops in Cambodia.

"It is an abominable monster," Prince Sihanouk said of the coalition, made up of his followers, those of the nationalist faction led by Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge whose bloody 1975-78 rule of Cambodia was ended by Vietnam.

"I must say to history that I have never suffered so much (than since the creation of the coalition in 1982), even under the (1941-53) French protectorate... I have never been so humiliated (as in the CGDK)."

"Now that I'm free, I will be able to shout, scream, speak the truth... There will no longer be anybody to tell me what to do."

When it is said that the coalition government represented the independence of Cambodia, "it is laughable, a bad joke," Prince Sihanouk said.

He said the coalition government, like the Hanoi-backed government in Phnom Penh, obeyed the orders of its "patrons" and "represented nothing at all, if not the interests of its sponsors."

"You have the Khmer Rouge, the Khmer blues (of Son Sann) and the Khmer royalists—but this can't work!" he said. "It's really a harem... when your three wives bicker and fight, it's impossible."

With regards to peace talks he held in December and January in France with Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen, the prince said: "I am not going to negotiate with Hun Sen. It is finished. I am stopping there."

"This Hun Sen and this Vietnam have given me nothing."

If the talks had gone on with no concessions from Mr. Hun Sen, "my enemies would have some reasons to say that Sihanouk was drawing Vietnam's mill water."

On direct meetings with Vietnam, Prince Sihanouk said: "Vietnam insults me when it decides not to see me. Now I am telling you that if the Vietnamese negotiate a solution with me, I accept."

"I would see the Vietnamese if they want to one day... I will not see Hun Sen again without seeing the Vietnamese at the same time."

He said a solution for Cambodia would necessarily require national conciliation among all political tendencies in the country.

To reach that goal, he said "the Cambodian people must be able to choose their leaders, their government, freely, during free elections."

He also called for an international peacekeeping force in Cambodia and the disarming of warring factions.

He acknowledged that China and the Khmer Rouge are against a peacekeeping force. But he added: "I would never accept that Cambodia be deprived of an international peacekeeping force. That I would never admit."

He called on France—the former colonial power in Indochina—to contribute the biggest contingency to such a force.

Coalition To Meet To Study Sihanouk Resignation
BK311122 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT
31 Jan 88

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 31 (AFP)—The Cambodian resistance coalition will meet soon to consider the resignation of its President Prince Norodom Sihanouk, one of the partners said here Sunday.

"The Council of Ministers of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) will meet soon to examine the new situation," the right-wing Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) said in a communique.

The KPNLF, whose leader Son Sann is the coalition's prime minister, said it "deeply regrets" the prince's decision and would plead with him to reconsider.

It said it learned of Prince Sihanouk's resignation from press reports.

Prince Sihanouk announced his resignation from the presidency on Saturday in Beijing, saying the United Nations-recognized tripartite coalition had become an "abominable monster."

He was particularly critical of the KPNLF which, he said, had become "extremely hostile."

The third partner is the Khmer Rouge.

Son Sann Asks Sihanouk To Continue as Leader
BK010105 Bangkok THE NATION in English
1 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Son Sann, leader of a right-wing Khmer guerrilla group, yesterday urged Prince Norodom Sihanouk to reconsider his decision to resign as president of the Khmer coalition government.

In a message released to the press, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) asked Sihanouk to continue as president of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK).

It said the Front "deeply regrets this decision of the prince" and the CGDK council of ministers will meet soon "to examine the new situation."

In Beijing Saturday, Sihanouk announced his surprise resignation as head of the Kampuchean coalition government.

The prince blamed Son Sann and his KPNLF for driving him to "irrevocably end my functions as president."

He said Son Sann, prime minister of the coalition, and his Front "never ceased their attempts to discredit me by all means" and opposed his recent talks with Premier Hun Sen of the Vietnam-installed government in Phnom Penh.

Sihanouk and Hun Sen held two rounds of peace talks in France in December and January.

A KPNLF spokesman in Bangkok told THE NATION that the group does not oppose the France talks, but it could not participate.

Son Sann has called for Vietnam to directly join the talks or to promise in writing to the UN to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea as pre-conditions of his participation.

Commenting on Sihanouk's resignation, spokesman Iang Mouley said: "Prince Sihanouk may have something in his mind and we cannot know." [passage omitted]

Indonesia

Mokhtar Plans To Visit Moscow 4 February
BK291015 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0939 GMT
29 Jan 88

[Text] Jakarta, January 29 (ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja is scheduled to arrive in Moscow on February 4 in a bid to improve bilateral relations, mainly in the trade and economic fields, between Indonesia and the Soviet Union.

ANTARA sources said here Friday, the Indonesian foreign minister will leave Jakarta on Monday, January 1, and arrive in Moscow February 4, after addressing the disarmament session in Geneva.

Foreign Minister Mokhtar at his press meeting last week said he and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze will discuss problems on the stepping up of trade and economic relations as well as the Kampuchean problem.

Mokhtar's visit to Moscow is to reciprocate Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Indonesia in March last year.

Shevardnadze, during his visit to Indonesia, said, the two countries should take a qualitatively advanced and more courageous step in opening direct contacts between enterprises and organizations of both countries, such as the formation of joint ventures.

Foreign Minister Mokhtar hopes to be able to have a meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Besides bilateral economic and trade problems, Mokhtar and Shevardnadze will also discuss the Kampuchean problem, which becomes topical of late, mainly after the meeting between Kampuchean resistance leader Norodom Sihanouk and the prime minister of the pro-Hanoi Kampuchean government, Hun Sen, in France in early January.

Indonesia, according to the Indonesian foreign minister, is of the view that the Soviet Union plays an important role in the search for a settlement in the 9-year old Kampuchean conflict.

Mokhtar did not give details about the role of the Soviet Union in the Kampuchean problem, but according to observers, the economic and military aid provided by the Soviet Union to Vietnam had enabled Vietnam to continue its occupation of Kampuchea.

Vietnam invaded Kampuchea in December 1978 to overthrow the Khmer Rouge government and up to now has deployed about 140,000 troops in Kampuchea to support the Heng Samrin regime against attacks from resistance fighters united under the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) led by Sihanouk.

Burmese Energy Minister Concludes Visit
BK290805 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0250 GMT
29 Jan 88

[Text] Jakarta, January 29 (ANTARA/OANA)—Indonesia and Burma are studying cooperation possibilities in the field of exploration of oil and gas, Burma's Energy Minister U Sein Tun said here Thursday.

In a press conference at the Sukarno-Hatta Airport before leaving for Rangoon after three days in Indonesia U Sein Tun said Indonesia's experience in oil and gas exploitation was better, although both Indonesia and Burma had a hundred years of experience in the field.

While in Indonesia the Burmese minister has visited among other things the total off-shore oil field in Handil, the liquefied natural gas plant in Bontang and an oil refinery in Balikpapan, all in East Kalimantan.

Sein Tun said Burma's production of oil at present is about 14,000 barrels a day and its production of natural gas is 120 million cubic feet a day, all for the domestic consumption.

"We have so far conducted no exports, except once, in a small quantity, in 1983 to the Philippines", he said without elaborating.

On January 26 the Burmese minister discussed cooperation possibilities with Indonesian Minister for Mining and Energy Subroto.

Minister Sein Tun in the company of his planning director, U Sue Mijnt has also inspected the oil and gas technology research and development center and the ASEAN Energy Training Center here.

The visit of the Burmese energy minister was a follow-up of the Burmese prime minister's visit to Indonesia several months ago. The Burmese prime minister has also visited oil projects in East Kalimantan.

Indonesia's director general of oil and gas Sudarno Martosewojo said Burma seemed to be interested in cooperating with Indonesia.

He said Burma's oil reserves are great and the country, like other developing countries, is at present facing problems to finance its oil and gas development.

He added the condition of Burma's oil fields such as that in Irawadi Delta is like those in East Kalimantan.

Director General Sudarno, the Burmese ambassador to Indonesia and other officials of the Indonesian Ministry of Mining and Energy saw off the Burmese minister's departure.

Government Studies French Bomber Proposal
BK290751 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0248 GMT
29 Jan 88

[Text] Jakarta, January 29 (ANTARA/OANA)—Indonesia will study an offer from Avions Marcel Dassault-Breguet Aviation (AMD-BA), a French aircraft producer, for the production of Super Etendard bombers and components by the Indonesian Aircraft Industrial Company IPTN. [as received]

Present director of IPTN B.J. Habibie told newsmen after he accompanied President Suharto when the latter received AMD-BA President Director Serge Dassault at Bina Graha here Thursday that it was necessary to study the marketing aspect of the aircraft in the country, in ASEAN and in other Asian countries.

President Suharto has instructed the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT) to study the offer together with IPTN using input from the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) Headquarters, especially the Indonesian Air Force, Habibie said.

Indonesia will negotiate the offer if the marketing aspect of the aircraft is good, Habibie made clear. But if the prospect is not bright because the operational cost is too high for instance, Indonesia will not accept the offer, he said. Indonesia has also received similar offers from other companies, he added.

Habibie, concurrently minister of research and technology, disclosed that IPTN had used software from Dassault, namely computer-aided design and computer-aided engineering.

Serge Dassault said meanwhile that the offer he forwarded to IPTN was for the possible production of Super Etendards or various components of the warplane in Bandung and then IPTN sends the products to France.

If Indonesia accepts the offer, the IPTN will possibly build the bomber under license, according to Dassault. He also stated that AMD-BA was prepared to train Indonesian technicians.

Dassault revealed the intention of his side to be engaged in long-term cooperation with Indonesia in the aircraft industry.

In reply to a question, he said the company had offered the production of Super Etendards in Indonesia because it observed a bright prospect for the marketing of the bombers in Indonesia and in the other Asian countries.

The first Super Etendard bomber was built in 1975 and up to the present time AMD-BA has produced 24 such warplanes. Today, the French and Argentinian Navies use these bombers.

If Indonesia agrees to build Super Etendards, the bombers produced in Bandung will be equipped with Exocet ballistic missiles, Dassault said.

Laos

Thai Said To Continue Attacks in Boten
BK301234 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] According to a local news report from Boten District, throughout the night of 29 January until the afternoon of 30 January, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries continuously fired artillery shells in support of their

infantry troops' serious attacks against positions of the Lao regional armed forces in Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province. Exercising their just rights, our regional armed forces of Boten District vigorously launched undaunted counterattacks against the enemies, thus suitably punishing them. The enemies suffered heavy losses—many of them were killed or wounded—and they were forced to retreat. At present, the fighting is still going on fiercely.

More Thai Reinforcements Reported

BK300904 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0500 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] According to a local news report from Boten District, from 0800 to 1600 yesterday [29 January], the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops fired over 200 artillery shells at positions of the Lao regional armed forces in Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province.

The report said that on the same day, the Thai side dispatched a large number of troops to reinforce its military outposts inside Lao territory. An A-37 aircraft flew two spy missions over the area of Na Banoi canton in preparation for further aggression and annexation of Lao territory.

Thai F-5 Reportedly Flies Over Area

BK310606 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Additional reports from Boten District revealed that on the afternoon of 29 January, the Thai reactionary troops pounded artillery shells into Lao territory while Thai infantry launched heavy attacks on positions of our fraternal soldiers. The assaults were carried out by the Flying Horse, White Horse, and Warrior Horse cavalry units; however, all assaults were defeated.

to punish the intruders, our fraternal soldiers attacked the Flying Horse unit's position, inflicting heavy casualties on them and forcing them to abandon this major position that has subsequently come under the control of our fraternal soldiers.

From morning until night yesterday, the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops indiscriminately fired over 1,000 shells of different types of artillery at Lao territory. At 1550, two Thai P-5's dropped many 250-kg bombs while another F-5 provokingly flew over the municipality of Boten District that is situated as far as 30 km from the border. This is a new act by the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops escalating and expanding the border dispute. The Lao Armed Forces and people resolutely oppose and denounce the said adventurous maneuver and, at the same time, praise the heroic combat spirit and the brilliant victories scored by the local armed forces of Boten District.

Radio Reports on 31 January Action

*BK010154 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 1 Feb 88*

[Text] According to a local news report from Boten District, at 1015 yesterday, the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops fired more than 200 rounds of artillery shells in support of their infantry forces' attacks against positions of our Lao regional armed forces in Boten District, Sayaboury Province. However, they were vigorously counterattacked by our regional armed forces. As a result, they suffered heavy casualties; many of them were killed or wounded while the remnants were forced to retreat.

KPL Looks at 3 Days of Fighting

*BK011117 Vientiane KPL in English
0937 GMT 1 Feb 88*

[Text] Vientiane, February 1st (KPL)—In the past three days, from January 29 to 31, Thai reactionary army launched new attacks against local Lao positions in Boten District, Sayaboury Province. On all accounts, faced with strong rebuff from local Lao Army, they were forced to pull back, reported a local source.

Starting from 1005 hrs of January 31, ultrarightist Thai reactionaries salvoed more than 200 rounds of artillery shells in support of their infantry attack against local Lao positions in Boten District, Sayaboury Province. But, once again the aggressive troops were incurring upon themselves considerable losses.

Earlier on January 29 Thai artillery and cavalry soldiers launched unsuccessful but fierce attacks against local Lao positions.

Since early morning till nightfall of January 30, it was reported, more than 1,000 rounds of artillery shells were pounded at the Lao territory. At 1550 hrs, two Thai F-5 jet fighters dropped 250-kg bombs at Phou Viang region. Another F-5 jet fighter intruded into Boten District's airspace, 30-km deep in the Lao territory.

All these indicate the Thai side's attempts at widening the border dispute issue as concocted by the ultrarightist Thai reactionaries.

Radio Carries Follow-up Report

*BK011306 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 1 Feb 88*

[Text] As reported earlier, from 1005 yesterday morning, the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops fired more than 200 rounds of artillery shells of various types in support of assaults launched by Thai infantry forces against the positions of Lao regional forces at Na Banoi canton, Boten District. Additional reports from Boten District say that from 0700 to 2100 yesterday, the Thai ultrarightist reactionary forces fired several thousand rounds of artillery shells against the positions of our Lao

regional forces in the area. The most intense shelling occurred between 1800 and 1950 when they lobbed more than 2,000 rounds of artillery shells on a 500-meter diameter area. However, the artillery salvos failed to shake the steel-like combat nerve of our Lao regional forces. Instead, our regional forces heroically mounted a decisive counterattack against the enemy infantry forces and managed to force them to retreat, inflicting heavy casualties on them.

Thai Ambassador Summoned About Proposed Talks

*BK301319 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 30 Jan 88*

[Text] At 1500 on 30 January, Sombat Chounlamani, chief of the third department of the LPDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, summoned Thai Ambassador to Laos Niran Phanuphong for a clear reply from the Thai Government concerning the latter's invitation to a Lao Government delegation to visit Bangkok to hold talks with the Thai side, because the information from the Thai Embassy on this issue is still confused. Sombat Chounlamani proposed that if the Thai side is willing to have the talks in Bangkok, it should prepare an official letter to The Lao Government for consideration.

Sombat Chounlamani also lodged a protest with the Thai ambassador in connection with the act of the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries in organizing hooligans to hold a demonstration in front of the Lao Embassy during which the demonstrators mocked many Lao leaders while destroying the national emblem of the LPDR and throwing stones to damage various items in the embassy compound. Such acts are a clear and open violation of the Vienna Convention. He continued: The second demonstration is regarded as worse than the first because during the second demonstration effigies of Lao leaders were burned and contemptuous remarks were made about the Lao leaders.

Sombat Chounlamani suggested to the Thai ambassador that Thai officials should take measures to prevent any recurrence of such an adverse incident.

Sombat Chounlamani also informed the Thai ambassador that in the past few days, Thai troops have stepped up their attacks to annex Lao territory. He said that through these events the Thai side has sought to further worsen the already tense situation in the state of Thai-Lao relations, both militarily and politically. He also suggested that the Thai side accept the Lao Government's proposal for a settlement of the problem through talks.

'Hooligans' Stage Second Rally at Embassy

*BK301012 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT
30 Jan 88*

["Thai Hooligans Demonstrated Against Lao Embassy"—KPL headline]

[Text] Vientiane, January 30 (OANA-KPL)—Ultrarightist Thai reactionaries yesterday rallied hundreds of hooligans to take part in a demonstration in front of the Lao Embassy in Bangkok, a source reported.

Organized and guided by the ultrarightist Thai circles, the naive demonstrators used grossly base words describing Lao leaders and voiced their groundless allegations against Vietnam. They also damaged some Lao Embassy properties.

Such acts of unbecoming behaviour incited by the ultrarightist Thai reactionaries were the second of the series in response to the issuing of the Lao proposal for bilateral talks on January 25.

The demonstrations [were] staged while the Thai troops are continuing their intense aggression of the Lao territory in Na Banoi village, Boten District, Sayaboury Province. "This obstinate action is not conducive to the peaceful settlement of the problems. It will merely intensify misunderstanding between the Lao and Thai peoples," the source said.

Commentary on Demonstrations

*BK010548 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0430 GMT 30 Jan 88*

[Unattributed commentary: "The Farce That Cannot Fool Anyone"]

[Text] Yesterday, a group of ill-intentioned persons in Thailand organized another protest demonstration in front of the Lao Embassy in Bangkok. During the demonstration, as in the previous one, the ill-intentioned group of people conducted an arrogant act, mocking the entire Lao people by destroying the emblem of the Lao nation and insulting the Lao leaders. This is considered very uncivilized. The Thai officials did not take any action to prevent the protesters from this act despite that fact that it was conducted before their eyes. It can be seen that this protest was supported by high-ranking Thai officials.

Naturally, it is a just right of the masses to display their feelings and views through a rally or demonstration; however, there must be a limit. In Laos, protest demonstrations have also been held, but they have been organized in an orderly manner in accordance with the rules. The Thai Embassy has not been violated, and—unlike the Thai hooligans—no Lao demonstrators have acted in a contemptuous manner.

Regarding this matter, there is nothing surprising for those who have dialectic views, because similar methods have been used by the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries on many occasions to suppress the progressive Thai people's struggle movements and to protest at the embassies of foreign countries they consider hostile. An example of this is the protest at the Vietnamese Embassy following the painful defeat of the Pol Pot genocidal regime in Cambodia. At that time, Thailand accused Vietnamese troops of intruding into Thai territory. Another example is that they mobilized the Nawaphon and the Red Guard

groups together with vocational students—who were not well aware of the situation—to suppress the just struggle of the students in Thammasat University on 6 October 1976.

This farce is also organized with the intention of confusing the Thai people and causing them to misunderstand Laos to gain support from the people for their acts of invasion and annexation of Lao territory. Nevertheless, for those Thai people who remain aware and stick to a spirit of justice, they will well understand that the present untoward incidents in the Lao-Thai border areas in Boten District are a result of the acts of the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries, in particular [Thai Foreign Minister] Sitthi Sawetsila and [Commander of the 3d Army Region] Colonel General Siri Thiwaphan and their associates who have profitted from private capitalists who have exploited the Thai people and colluded in the illegal log felling in areas where the fighting has taken place.

The progressive Thai people are of the view that the Lao regional armed forces and people are fighting to defend themselves in accordance with their just rights to safeguard their sovereignty and territorial integrity. They have supported this struggle of the Lao regional armed forces and people because they well understand that to solve a problem, it is necessary to begin at the primary cause, not at the end result.

For this reason, to put an end to the useless deaths of a large number of Thai officers and men, it is appropriate to protest to the Thai Foreign Affairs Ministry and demand that it stop acts of aggression against Laos and then turn to talks to peacefully settle the problem. Regarding this, the Lao side has made efforts throughout with the hope of settling the problem through this method. This is clearly stated in the LPDR Government's 25 January statement that says that the Lao side is ready to send its delegation to Bangkok in early February 1988 to hold talks with the Thai side and that if the Thai side is unable to welcome the Lao delegation for any reason, the LPDR is willing to invite a Thai delegation to come to Vientiane during the same period.

The demonstrations in front of the Lao Embassy in Bangkok on 27 and 29 January are actually in accordance with the plot to stage a deceitful play by the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries who intend to obstruct the peaceful settlement of the problem of disputes between the two countries. Therefore, there is nothing surprising about the demonstrations and they absolutely cannot deceive nor cause misunderstanding to the Thai people.

PASASON Views Protests

*BK010958 Vietnamese KPL in English
0909 GMT 1 Feb 88*

[Text] Vientiane, February 1st (KPL) — Today, PASASON's commentary energetically denounced vandalist acts carried out on Jan 27 and 29 by Thai hooligans against the properties of Lao Embassy in Bangkok.

The commentary writes:

For the second time, hooligans hired and directed by the Thai ultrarightist reactionary circles have demonstrated in front of the embassy of the Lao PDR in Bangkok on January 29. The Lao side has been astonished by base behaviours of demonstrators which will only damage the prestige and image of the Thai nation and people by destroying the properties of a foreign embassy. They seriously violated the Vienna Convention. During the demonstration, Lao leaders' effigies were burnt, stones and paper were thrown into the Lao Embassy's ground. The Lao people, says PASASON, is taken a back at such unbecoming behaviour by the demonstrators and the staging of the demonstration since the Lao Foreign Ministry, on January 25, proposed to the Thai side to hold talks without any delay.

Instead of positively responding to the Lao proposals, Thai [Foreign] Minister Sitthi Sawetsila continued to express arrogant attitude and repeatedly made [the] statement: we will not negotiate with Laos if they don't withdraw troops from Thai territory (wrongly claimed by them)...meanwhile, the Thai reactionary forces intensified their armed aggression by their attacks aiming at annexing the Lao territory...

The paper continues:

The Lao people consider these base acts as the most negative way in handling the Lao-Thai relations. Accordingly, they solemnly demand the Thai side to adopt a more positive and sincere approach toward Laos and to take all necessary measures to immediately put an end to the bloodbath incurred through aggression.

The Lao people aspire to peacefully coexist with Thai people and consider that it is high time to end all the bloody incident which can be avoided. They also view that the best and only approach is to negotiate and settle all the problems with peaceful means and the negotiations should be started without delay and preconditions, the paper concluded.

Editorial on Importance of Combat Perseverance

*BK281510 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 27 Jan 88*

[Unattributed Editorial: "Hold Aloft a Sense of Combat Perseverance"]

[Text] Dear listeners: The regular cultivation of a sense of combat perseverance for soldiers is one of the forefront objectives aimed at further strengthening our Army's combat strength. This is because combat perseverance is an indispensable factor in the heroic spirit of a revolutionary army. In the struggle against the French colonialists, the U.S. imperialists, and their reactionary henchmen in the past, thanks to a lofty sense of combat perseverance, heroically and tenaciously overcoming all difficulties, persevering to overcome all complicated and

uncompromising trials, and further enhancing their combat capabilities and a sense of combat creativeness, our cadres and combatants scored glorious victories for the country.

The revolution in our country is at present confronting numerous difficulties. The ultrarightist reactionaries in the Thai ruling circles strive to oppose and subvert our revolution by waging a multifaceted war of destruction against us with the aim of weakening and wearing us out. At present, they are pursuing a pan-Thai doctrine by deploying their armed forces, artillery, and war planes to nibble at and annex our territory west of Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province. Thus, it is now more important than ever that we fully realize that our present task of national defense and socialist construction in our country is critical to our struggle and will decide who emerges the winner—ourselves or our enemies. This struggle is extremely complex, fierce, and protracted.

The new revolutionary situation and duty requires our cadres and combatants to further hold aloft a sense of combat perseverance so as to fulfill all tasks and to defeat all enemies. At present, this sense of lofty combat perseverance can be displayed through the profound appreciation of socialist ideals, the lofty objectives of the socialist revolution, the orientation and line of the revolution, and the party's and state's policies and plans in the new period of the revolution. To score victories, all cadres and combatants must adequately appreciate the revolutionary tasks as well as the army's duty, forge their own revolutionary stand and attitude, hold aloft a sense of responsibility, and resolutely fulfill the tasks of each person and each unit as well as those of the entire army and party.

No matter the circumstances, all cadres and combatants must maintain a high sense of combat perseverance to brilliantly fulfill all tasks entrusted by the party and country so as to unite with the entire masses and resolutely smash the multifaceted destructive schemes of the enemies, including the nibbling attacks against and the annexation of our territory by Thai ultrarightist reactionaries, thereby securely defending our country and contributing to socialist construction in our country.

A sense of combat perseverance must be clearly and thoroughly displayed through one's daily life. Those units in the front line that stand ready to fight or are currently fighting must display this nature by constantly maintaining a sense of revolutionary vigilance; having the tenacity to overcome all difficulties and obstacles; constantly forging their combat knowledge, capabilities, and qualifications; maintaining a high sense of combat readiness; strictly upholding the spirit of good discipline; strictly implementing all decrees and orders; and preserving and maintaining all vehicles, equipment, and weapons efficiently so as to prevent damage and to ensure their effectiveness when used.

As for specialized units, factories, organizations, and schools, the sense of combat perseverance must be displayed in a collective manner; that is, they must maintain a high sense of responsibility and follow a strict working pattern; must maintain a spirit of thorough study; and must show a sense of enthusiasm in working and work with discipline and technical skills for effective productivity.

In face of the current reality, all cadres and combatants must show their sense of combat perseverance by standing firm when faced with difficulties, steadily maintaining a genuine revolutionary nature, and firmly opposing any negative thinking. Moreover, they must fight resolutely against any negativism and indecisiveness. In forging a sense of combat perseverance, we must exert efforts on and overcome and fight against tendencies toward apathy, carelessness, indifference, lack of discipline, and irresponsibility in working, studying, and maintaining and safeguarding vehicles, weapons, and equipment.

The forging of a sense of combat perseverance must be linked to the energetic performance of work, the fulfillment of duties, the appreciation of the revolutionary situation and tasks, the acts to carry out emulation in fulfilling the tasks entrusted by the higher levels, and the safeguarding of fine and pure nature.

In the face of the current serious situation and heavy tasks, all cadres and party members, particularly key cadres of all units, must be models for forging a sense of combat perseverance, consistently encourage cadres and combatants in their respective units to engage in forging this sense, and resolutely prevent and overcome in a timely manner all phenomena that may discourage combat perseverance.

Let our entire Army resolve to change rigorously in all spheres, so as to cherish the consolidated qualifications and upgrade the combat might of the armed forces to a new level.

Philippines

NPA Threatens To Assassinate U.S. Ambassador
HK310620 Hong Kong AFP in English 0616 GMT
31 Jan 88

[Text] Manila, Jan 31 (AFP)—Communist rebels have said they are considering an assassination bid on the U.S. ambassador to the Philippines and have sent warnings to British, Australian and Israeli intelligence operatives.

Two men identified as New People's Army (NPA) spokesmen and interviewed by an Australian journalist here also denied involvement in an apparent attempt on the life of French Ambassador Jacques Le Blanc in Manila on January 14.

Excerpts of the clandestine interview made last week by Gwen Robinson of Australia's NATIONAL TIMES were made available to news agencies here.

The two spokesmen, identified only by their aliases, said they were "considering" an attempt on the life of U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt, but added that he would be given "ample time and warning before we do it."

The spokesmen said they were members of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, whose assassination squads were blamed for the murder of more than 100 policemen, soldiers and alleged military informers in and around Manila last year.

They said the brigade had "sent out warnings against American nationals" who were operatives of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and "directly engaged in the counter-insurgency operations."

Warnings were also sent to foreigners "connected with or supporting the CIA efforts here in the Philippines, like the Australian intelligence community, the British intelligence and most recently the Israeli intelligence."

The NPA spokesman said the brigade had not yet launched "any operation against any foreign national in the city," saying they were not involved in the attack on Mr. Le Blanc, who escaped unhurt when his bullet-proof car was fired on by unknown gunmen.

Other NPA units have claimed responsibility for the murder in October of two U.S. servicemen and an American civilian outside the U.S. Clark Air Base, as a warning for Washington to stop military aid to President Corazon Aquino.

There were no immediate comments available from the U.S., British, Australian and Israeli Embassies here regarding the spokesman's remarks.

Philippine security forces tightened security at foreign embassies here after the Le Blanc incident.

Ramos Promises Protection
BK010829 Manila PNA in English 0820 GMT
1 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb. 1 (PNA/OANA)—Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos today said the government would provide full protection to all foreign diplomats in the country in view of an assassination threat by communist urban terrorists.

Ramos at the same time laughed off as pure braggadocio the announced threat by the urban guerrillas to take over some provinces under their control.

Ramos made the statement on the rebels' threat in an interview with newsmen on board a Philippine Air Force (PAF) Fokker plane on his way to Zamboanga City, 870 km south of here. It was his first out-of-town trip since he was named defense secretary a week ago.

Security measures have already been in place for those diplomatic missions which have requested assistance from the Defense Department and the Armed Forces, he said.

The Alex Boncayao Brigade, an urban guerrilla group operating in Metro Manila, and the Jovito Plaza Brigade, a new rebel death squad in Central Visayas, were reported considering to assassinate American Ambassador Nicholas Platt and other foreign diplomatic officials who assist the Philippine Government in its counter-insurgency campaign.

These threats have been aired before by the leadership of the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]/NPA as an aftermath of the series of killings by the NPA in the Clark Air Base vicinity, Ramos said.

Three American military personnel were gunned down a few months ago by urban guerrillas in Angeles City as a warning to the United States to keep off from the Philippines' affairs, Ramos said.

According to Ramos, the United States has already taken the necessary precaution to protect American nationals in the country.

He said the U.S. Government's security measures have the concurrence of the Philippine Government.

With regard to the communist threat to take over several provinces this year, Ramos said: I do not think that they have that capability to take over any piece of territory in the country even for a few hours.

Ramos said the capability of the NPA rebels is nothing more than hit and run where the government forces are not present or seen deployed.

Their target at the moment are small military detachments, police stations in remote areas and scattered public utilities, he added.

Nuclear Group Protests U.S. Carrier's Arrival
HK010528 Hong Kong AFP in English 0520 GMT
1 Feb 88

[Text] Olongapo, Philippines, Feb 1 (AFP)—A U.S. aircraft carrier allegedly carrying nuclear warheads in violation of the Philippine Constitution docked Monday at the Subic Naval Base in this port city north of Manila.

An anti-nuclear group in Manila said the U.S.S. Enterprise was nuclear-armed and President Corazon Aquino should enforce the Constitution to disprove her alleged "subservience to foreign interests".

Subic spokesmen, following official U.S. policy, declined to confirm or deny that the carrier is nuclear-armed or powered.

They also declined to comment on reports from sources in Subic and the Olongapo city government that the carrier was headed for the Gulf to relieve another carrier group.

The spokesmen said the carrier and its escorts were on a routine port call of about four days.

The Reverend Elmo Manapat, secretary-general of the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the group's records showed that the Enterprise was equipped with "tactical nuclear weapons".

"The port call of the U.S.S. Enterprise and its escorts is another glaring violation by a foreign power of the Constitution," he said.

If the carrier were headed for the Gulf, he said, this would make the Philippines "an unwilling enemy of the Iranian people".

The Philippine constitution, ratified in February 1987, states that "the Philippines, consistent with the national interest, adopts and pursues a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory".

The Enterprise arrived amid preparations for U.S.-Philippine talks this year on the future of Subic and the nearby Clark Air Base, whose leases expire in 1991.

Olongapo residents said many of the carrier group's 6,000 personnel began streaming into the city's bars soon after arrival.

Committee To Draw Up Bases Treaty Position
HK010554 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] A preparatory committee will begin drawing up the Philippines' position on the Republic of the Philippines-U.S. military bases agreement. The committee will be composed of representatives from the Office of the President and the legislative body.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said the panel is different from the committee that will conduct actual negotiations with the U.S. Government.

The treaty is up for review this year in preparation for talks on whether to extend or terminate it. The treaty will expire in 1991.

Meanwhile, the lower House is expected to insist that the U.S. payment for the military bases in the country be called rent instead of aid. This assertion was included in a resolution presented by Congressman Oscar Orbos of Pangasinan, who is vice chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Orbus added that his proposal has the support of Speaker Ramon Mitra. According to him, the lower House will claim jurisdiction over the treaty [as heard] if the payment is considered rent because it will then become part of the government's revenue.

NDF Vows Not To Attack 'Noncombatants'
BK301338 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT
30 Jan 88

[Text] Manila, Jan 30 (AFP)—Five people were killed and three wounded in separate attacks by communist guerrillas in the central Philippines, eyewitnesses and military sources said Saturday.

Three militiamen were killed and three wounded when some 50 New People's Army guerrillas ambushed a 15-man patrol outside the central Philippine city of Iloilo on Friday, survivors of the attack said.

In Bacolod city, also in the central Philippines, a policeman and a soldier were shot dead in two separate incidents by NPA assassination teams that also took their service pistols, the military said.

Meanwhile the communist-dominated National Democratic Front (NDF) vowed Saturday to abide by the Geneva Convention's Protocol II, which bans attacks on non-combatants in a nation's internal conflicts.

In a commentary in the latest issue of an NDF publication, it said President Corazon Aquino's government had violated the protocol by forcibly evacuating entire communities, blocking food shipments and allowing military abuses.

In an apparent reference to U.S. military advisers here, the NDF said it considered all military and police officers and personnel, paramilitary forces, civilian spies and "foreign advisers and agents" as combatants.

In a separate press statement issued Saturday the NDF expressed solidarity with the cause of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) in their protests against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Analysts said that the new policies were part of an NDF campaign to gain belligerent status in international bodies.

In the past the NDF rarely mentioned the Middle East situation.

Meanwhile, an Asian human rights mission charged here Saturday that the government's human rights record was worse than that of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos.

The Asian Human Rights Commission—with representatives from seven countries—recently completed a 12-day tour hosted by a left-wing Philippine human rights group, said there were no helicopter bombings or anti-communist vigilantes during the Marcos regime.

The commission said they had tried to investigate NPA and military abuses but that the military refused to cooperate.

Suspected NPA Gunmen Kill Five Lawmen
HK010235 Quezon City Sports Radio 738
in English 0200 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Four lawmen in Metro Manila and one in San Pablo City were gunned down by suspected NPA hitmen in the past 2 days.

Casualties in Metro Manila included two enlisted men of the PC Capcom [Capital Command] gunned down in Caloocan City yesterday and a Manila policeman killed in Taguig the other night.

In San Pablo City, Sergeant Bayani Yeste was shot at close range by six gunmen last Saturday while he was walking along a busy street near the police station.

Aquino Condemns Killings
HK011039 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0840 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] In an interview earlier today, President Aquino condemned NPA urban terrorists after they killed two PC soldiers and three policemen at almost the same time in different places.

The president said that law enforcement agents should find ways to protect themselves from assassins, the most effective means being to hunt them down. She added that lawmen should be careful and security conscious at all times, even when they are off duty, to prevent further killings.

The slaying of 3 policemen yesterday put the total number of law enforcement officials killed so far at 150. The communist rebels' urban death squads based in Metro Manila are believed to be involved in the killing of 100 soldiers and military men last year.

In a recent interview, the rebels declared their intention to launch new offensives in Metro Manila. A report by the Communist Party of the Philippines in a clandestine radio broadcast stated that its military arm, the NPA, has a total of 83 combat battalions all over the country composed of 30,000 full- and part-time guerrillas. The killings by the urban terrorists are believed to be part of the overall plan to destabilize the Aquino government.

NPA 'Ready' To Seize Control of Provinces
*BK301722 Hong Kong AFP in English 1718 GMT
30 Jan 88*

[Text] Manila, Jan 30 (AFP)—Communist insurgents are ready to attack and seize control of most Philippine provinces, a rebel spokesman announced Saturday.

Fidel Alinea, a spokesman for the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said there were plans to expand the party's military New People's Army (NPA) "in the next few days."

Speaking in a clandestine radio broadcast, he said: "In almost all provinces, we have forces which are ready to attack and control these areas."

He said the NPA currently had only 4,500 full-time and 25,000 part-time guerrillas. They were split up into 83 combat battalions scattered over the country, he said, adding that he expected these battalions to increase in the coming days.

He admitted there was a wide gap between the strength of the NPA and the military, which he said had a combined force of 250,000 men.

"But thousands of other forces are directly supporting the New People's Army," he added.

The military claims there are at least 23,000 NPA guerrillas fighting 257,000 soldiers, policemen and militiamen.

Ramos, De Villa Appointments Deemed 'Valid'
*HK300900 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0830 GMT 30 Jan 88*

[Text] President Aquino's appointment of General Fidel V. Ramos as secretary of national defense and of General Renato de Villa as Armed Forces chief is valid and legal. This was the conclusion announced by representatives of the executive and legislative branches who met at Malacanang this morning on the issue of presidential appointments.

According to Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig, present at the meeting were Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordenez, Senate President Jovito Salonga, and Senators Ernesto Maceda and Eduardo Angara.

Macaraig added that both sides agreed to maintain the earlier nomination of Fulgencio Factoran as secretary of natural resources and of Reinerio Reyes as secretary of communications.

[Begin Macaraig recording, in English] We agreed that Secretaries Factoran and Reinerio Reyes need not be reappointed because the last week of Congress was (?ruled a recess). We agreed also that appointment and immediate assumption of office of Secretary of National Defense Ramos was valid.

Now, we also agreed that Congress would fix its 1988 calendar and clearly indicate in the calendar which dates will be considered as adjournment and as mere suspension of sessions. [end recording]

Aquino Names Comelec Commission Nominees
*HK011051 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 1 Feb 88*

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has announced her nominations for new commissioners of the Comelec, in view of the retirement of the incumbent commissioners led by Comelec Chairman Ramon Felipe tomorrow.

The nominees for Comelec commissioners are: Hilario Davide Jr as chairman, with a tenure of 7 years; Haydee Yorac as commissioner, with a tenure of 5 years; Leopoldo Africa as commissioner, with a tenure of 3 years; Andres Flores as commissioner, with a tenure of 3 years; Dario Rama as commissioner, with a tenure of 5 years, and Alfredo Abueg Jr as commissioner, with a tenure of 7 years.

These are the new nominees of President Corazon Aquino who will form the new Comelec. The nominations have been submitted to the Commission on Appointments and, according to our reports, the commission, headed by Senate President Jovito Salonga, is currently studying the nominations in a closed-door meeting at the Senate.

We repeat, the president has submitted her nominations for new commissioners of the Comelec, headed by Chairman-nominee Hilario Davide Jr to the Commission on Appointments.

Ward Leader Killed During Local Polls
*HK011029 Hong Kong AFP in English 1010 GMT
1 Feb 88*

[Text] Manila, Feb 1 (AFP)—A ward leader was shot dead Monday as delayed local elections were held amid tight security in four troubled provinces, while a protest over polls conducted last month left three people injured.

President Corazon Aquino meanwhile retired the Philippines' chief election official a day before his term was due to expire and nominated a replacement.

Local authorities said a policeman shot dead ward leader Rolando Nieves, campaign manager for a pro-administration mayoral candidate, during polling in Allen town, in the central province of Northern Samar.

The policeman, identified as Danino Rarilla, surrendered to authorities hours after the shooting, the officials said, but gave no further details.

Communist guerrillas meanwhile snatched five ballot boxes in the nearby town of Villalobos, but Army troops recovered three of them in a shoot-out, military spokesmen said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The house of a pro-administration candidate in the Northern Samar town of San Jose was bombed by unknown men, but no one was injured, they added.

The polls, also conducted Monday in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur in the southern province of Mindanao and in the central province of Leyte, had been delayed from January 18 to allow officials to set up special security measures.

The Mindanao provinces are racked by a Moslem insurgency and warlord feuding while the two central areas have a high communist guerrilla presence. Troops were deployed in all four provinces to secure balloting, officials said.

There were no other immediate reports of major disruptions by the close of balloting at 4 p.m. (0800 GMT), poll officials here told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

But in Muntinlupa, south of Manila, four people were injured before dawn Monday when riot police used water cannon to break up a protest by some 500 supporters of losing mayoral candidates in the January 18 poll, police said.

The demonstrators, who said the elections had been marred by fraud, stormed the town hall and broke its windows before police intervened, they said.

A total of 492 protests have so far been filed with the government's Commission on Elections (Comelec) over the local poll, which has already had three installments and must still be held in seven provinces, Comelec said.

The backlog has prevented some 6,000 of the 16,000 winners of the January 18 vote from immediately assuming their posts, they added.

Mrs. Aquino Monday retired Ramon Felipe as Comelec chairman a day before his term was to expire and nominated Hilarion Davide, a former M.P. active in the opposition to deposed president Ferdinand Marcos, palace spokesmen said.

The opposition had demanded Mr. Felipe's replacement for allegedly favouring the administration.

Mrs. Aquino Monday also nominated four other Comelec commissioners to extended terms of three to five years and appointed a fifth commissioner, Alfredo Abueg, for a term of seven years, the spokesmen said.

Philippine elections have traditionally been marred by fraud and protests.

Mrs. Aquino herself came to power after the military revolted and supported her claim that Mr. Marcos had robbed her of victory in the February 1986 presidential elections.

Police Disperse Losing Candidates' Supporters
*HK010659 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT
1 Feb 88*

[Text] Manila, Feb 1 (AFP)—Four demonstrators were injured Monday when riot police used water cannon to break up a protest by hundreds of supporters of candidates who lost in recent local elections, officials said here.

Some 500 supporters of six losing opposition candidates in January 18 local elections stormed the town hall in Muntinlupa, a residential area about one hour's drive from the Philippines capital, before dawn, and broke its windows, police station commander Colonel Silvestre Rosauo said.

Police used water cannon to disperse the demonstrators, who said the local polls had been marred by fraud and demanded fresh polls, Col. Silvestre added.

Four protestors were injured, he said.

Leyte, Samar Polls Said 'Generally Peaceful'
*HK011133 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 1 Feb 88*

[Text] Special local elections are presently being conducted in Leyte, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, and Northern Samar, as well as in the cities of Iligan, Marawi, Tacloban, and Ormoc, amid strict military security measures.

Reporter Juan Tania said that the special elections are proceeding peacefully in Leyte and Northern Samar.

[Begin Tania recording] Generally speaking, the ongoing special elections in Leyte and Northern Samar are proceeding peacefully today, 1 February. This was the observation made by the Philippine Federation of Catholic Broadcasters, courtesy of Rey Gaspay and myself, based on our monitoring of some towns in Leyte and Samar.

Comelec Regional Director Juanito Collamar said in an interview that some towns and voting precincts which held local elections on 18 January that were subsequently suspended and postponed until today are having problems due to a shortage of ballots. These places are now asking for help from the Comelec office in Manila.

Apart from this problem, the elections here are generally peaceful, although some military troops are deployed in different towns and municipalities in Leyte. [end recording]

Coup Leader Abadilla Sworn Into Office
HK010845 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Renegade loyalist soldier Rolando Abadilla was formally sworn into office as vice governor-elect of Ilocos Norte in a short ceremony held inside his cell block at Fort Bonifacio at 1000 this morning. Presiding over the ceremony was Judge Rodolfo Palatiao.

In a news conference after the oath-taking ceremony, Abadilla expressed the hope to be with his constituents. However, the government has yet to respond to his request for release in order to serve as vice governor of Ilocos Norte.

Abadilla also thanked everyone who supported his candidacy. He mentioned his desire to help the government to demonstrate that he has no intention of overthrowing the Aquino government. He also promised to work for the return of former President Marcos through legal and peaceful means.

Abadilla, former chief of the MISG [Military Intelligence Service Group], was a leading figure in the Channel 7 takeover, the Manila Hotel incident, and the 28 August attempted coup.

Comelec Proclaims More Winning Candidates
HK291425 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 29 Jan 88 p 7

[Reports from Rodolfo Lusterio, Juliet Pascual, Carol Arguillas and PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY]

[Excerpt] The Commission on Elections yesterday announced the proclamation of at least three dozen mayoral and as many vice mayoral winners in last Monday's special elections.

The elections were held in the provinces of Ilocos Sur, Abra, Ifugao, Maguindanao and in Cotabato City.

In Ilocos Sur, 15 mayoral and as many vice mayoral winners have been named, according to the PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY.

In the gubernatorial race, Evaristo Singson of the PDP-Laban [Pilipino Democratic Party-Lakas ng Bayan—Nation's Strength] had 29,796 votes over his rival, Salacan Bateria of Lakas ng Bansa [Power of the Nation] who had 20,339 votes, according to Comelec figures as of 6 p.m. yesterday.

The vice gubernatorial contest has as frontrunner Mariano Tajon (PDP-Laban), with 28,702 votes; followed by Caridad Alcantara (Ind.), 9,757; and Candido Balbin (Ind.), 7,900.

Among the winners in the mayoral race was Benjamin Sarmiento, a former close-in security [as published] of deposed President Marcos, who won over another independent bet in San Juan town. Perfecto Vera Cruz, also an independent, won the vice mayoral seat. The two were the first to be proclaimed in Ilocos Sur.

In Abra, administration bet Vicente Valera maintained his slim lead in the gubernatorial race over retired General Eustaquio Purugganan.

Valera, former OIC [officer-in-charge] governor of Abra, was leading by only 3,098 votes over Purugganan based on returns from 15 of Abra's 27 towns. Valera had 22,287 votes against Purugganan's 19,189 votes.

In the vice gubernatorial race, Valera's teammate, Leo Trinidad, was leading with 15,949 votes. He had an 805-vote lead over Alberto Benesa of the United Opposition for Good Government, who got 15,134 votes.

Ben Bringas of the Liberal Party was third in the vice gubernatorial tabulation with 8,198 while independent candidate Samuel Sabaot had only 88 votes.

In Ifugao province, independent bet Benjamin Cappleman was leading the gubernatorial race with 12,706 votes. His rivals are Evelyn Dulmuan (UNUCD) [expansion unknown] 4,899; Juan Dait (PDP-Laban), 3,632; and Romulo Curaming (Unido) [United Nationalist Democratic Organization], 2,718. PDP-Laban's Alberto Pawingi was leading with 6,823 votes over the nearest of his three opponents, Napoleon Baguilat (NP), 4,514 votes. PDP-Laban's Alberto Pawingi was leading with 6,823 votes over the nearest of his three opponents, Napoleon Baguilat (NP), 4,514 votes.

Mayoral winners in three of the seven Ifugao towns have been proclaimed. They are:

Joaquin Dugyon (PDP-Laban), mayor; Roberto Bumangit (Ind.), vice mayor, Lagawe, the capital town.

Julian Dulhowan (ind.), mayor, and Pio Dupinguey (PDP), of Kiangnan, and Linda Chagili (PDP), mayor and Filemon Dulinayan (PDP), of Lamut.

In Lucena City, Unido's Eduardo Rodriguez was still frontrunner in the gubernatorial race with 29,343 votes. His rivals are former OIC Hjalmar Quintana (PDP-Laban), 16,391; and Ed Abcede (LP), 7,197.

The vice governorship was also being won by Rodriguez's running mate, Robert Racelis, with 22,501 votes. Racelis' rival, Flora Tumagay (NP), had 13,666 votes.

The figures were based on official partial returns from 343 out of a total of 2,000 precincts in Quezon province.

The Comelec also proclaimed a winner, Cesar Zaballero of the Lakas ng Bansa, in Lucena City. His mayoral rival, Ramon Talaga Jr. of the LP, had 14,128 votes.

The CHRONICLE learned that the canvassing of returns were proceeding slowly. [passage omitted]

Quezon City Candidate Disputes Comelec Order
HK300732 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0600 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The counsel of Jun Simon today denied a report that there was already a Comelec order invalidating his proclamation as mayor-elect of Quezon City.

In an interview, Attorney Romulo Makalintal said that Simon's proclamation is binding until an order stating otherwise is issued by Comelec. The city board of canvassers the other day proclaimed the victory of Jun Simon and Tito Sotto, but it was later reported that Comelec had suspended the proclamations.

The commission will decide this issue after Simon's group presents its side on the petition of Liberal Party candidate Charito Planas seeking annulment of the proclamations and declaration of failure of election in Quezon City.

Meanwhile, Comelec has proclaimed the winning mayoralty candidates in the cities of Davao and Iloilo, as well as in the town of Upi, Maguindanao.

In Davao, Rodrigo Duterte was proclaimed the winner after 12 days of canvassing. He defeated former assemblyman Zafirio Respicio and anticommunist crusader Jun Pala, Jr. who also ran for the mayoralty post.

In Iloilo, the victory of ex-senator Rodolfo Guanzon in the 18 January elections was already proclaimed.

Meanwhile, in Upi, Maguindanao, (Datu Mohammad Sinsuat) was also formally proclaimed as the winner in the special elections held on 25 January.

Quezon Province Winners Sworn Into Office
HK011105 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] In Infanta, Quezon, the winning candidates in the local elections formally took their oaths of office this morning. The oath-taking ceremony was presided over by municipal circuit judge Ester Honteyal. Those who were sworn into office and who will begin their term of office tomorrow are: Mayor-elect Isagani Perdellada, Vice Mayor-elect Vir Soriano, and Councillors-elect Rodin Fortunado, Eddie Makasaet, William Castillo, Anton Chan, Rene Masa, Rudy Ondriano, Casiano Ondriano and Renato Ibayan.

Meanwhile, on the provincial level, the latest reports from Lucena City showed that the winning gubernatorial candidate in Quezon is Eduardo Eddie Rodriguez and the vice governor-elect is Robert Racellis. Councillors-elect to the provincial board are Talabong, Alcala, Mopera, Almira, Escueta, Pasumbal, Soler, Martinez, Lopez, and Abrenica. They are slated to be proclaimed at noon today in Lucena City.

Pangasinan, Maguindanao Governors Proclaimed
HK010556 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Pangasinan governor-elect Rafael Colet was proclaimed winner despite attempts by lawyers of his opponent, Aguido Agbayani, to stop the proclamation. Colet was ahead of Agbayani by 356 votes.

Meanwhile, former regional executive council chairman and Maguindanao officer-in-charge Zacarias Candao was proclaimed governor-elect of Maguindanao. He led his opponent, Simeon Datumanong, by 4,000 votes. His vice governor, Norodim Matalam, was also proclaimed winner of the local elections.

Authorities Fear New MNLF Offensive
HK300502 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Authorities are concerned about a new offensive to be launched by the MNLF after almost a year of informal cease-fire.

MNLF rebels 2 days ago bombed a hydroelectric plant in Lanao del Norte in an attempt to cut the power supply in Mindanao. Nevertheless, the MNLF failed in this attempt.

Reports about the attack came at the same time as MNLF leader Nur Misuari warned that his group would create trouble if the Muslim nations of ASEAN block the MNLF's plan to join the Islamic Conference Organization.

Meanwhile, two MNLF rebels were killed and eight wounded in two separate incidents in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur recently.

MNLF 'Executes' Nine Christian Captives
BK301142 Hong Kong AFP in English 1121 GMT
30 Jan 88

[Text] Dipolog, Philippines, Jan 30 (AFP)—Guerrillas of the Moslem Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) have executed nine Christian women near here in the southern Philippines, the PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY (PIA) said Saturday.

The nine were executed Friday at the town of Sumisip in southern Mindanao Island in retaliation for the death of an MNLF chieftain, his wife and 14-year old son in a skirmish with the military on January 23, in the nearby province of Sulu, the PIA said, quoting military sources.

Troops from a nearby Army base recovered the bodies and are searching for the MNLF separatists.

The MNLF abducted 10 Christians hostages in the southern island of Basilan January 21, but transported them to Sumisip in Mindanao's Zamboanga del Sur Province on January 23 after one captive escaped and alerted the military.

The separatists had initially demanded a ransom of one million pesos (48,000 U.S. dollars) from the relatives of the nine women, but dropped the demand after the relatives informed the military.

Military spokesmen could not be reached to confirm the report.

The military believes that the MNLF, which signed a ceasefire with the government in mid-1987, is preparing to launch a series of offensives to pave the way for their formal membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Releases Eight Hostages

*HK010853 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0800 GMT 1 Feb 88*

[Text] Muslim rebels released eight Christians who were abducted on 21 January. The eight hostages were turned over by the rebels to Basilan governor-elect Gerry Salapuddin, former MNLF commander, in a remote barangay in Maluso Town.

According to Lieutenant Colonel (Procawa Diya), PC-INP commander, the eight hostages, including four women and one girl, were in good condition. They were identified as: Rebecca Ando, Leonida Ando, Luna Casabuena, Antonio Gan, Ignacio Circulado, Fred Atama, Eldura Sinegas, and Gordon Caliyon. The group was on board a jeepney en route for Isabela from the town of Sumisip when attacked by armed rebels.

Thailand

'Fierce' Clashes Reported on Laotian Border

*BK310236 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
31 Jan 88 p 2*

[Text] Thai and Laotian soldiers battling for control of strategic hills in the disputed Ban Romklao border area exchanged hundreds of artillery and mortar rounds over the past two days, a field source reported yesterday.

About 170 Lao artillery and mortar shells landed in the vicinity of Ban Romklao in Chat Trakan district of Phitsanulok between 8 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. on Friday. The Thai forces retaliated in kind, the source said.

At 11 p.m. a unit of some 309 Laotian soldiers from Taseng Na Bo Noi intruded four kilometres into Thai territory at Hill 146.

The Lao troops detonated five Claymore mines and engaged in a fierce gunbattle with a Thai patrol.

After an hour of fighting, the source said, the Lao soldiers retreated.

Early yesterday morning, Thai positions at hills 1142, 1146, 1182 and 1370 were bombarded with artillery and mortar rounds.

The Thai side countered with 105mm and 155mm artillery fire. The exchange continued well into the evening.

Two Soviet-made Mi-6 helicopters were seen flying over the border around 9 a.m. yesterday, but fled after being intercepted by a Thai helicopter gunship, the source said.

Earlier in the morning, Lao Army radio attacked Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, Defence Minister Phaniang Kantarat and Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyuth, saying maps shown to foreign diplomats supporting Thai territorial claims were fakes.

Laos will not negotiate as long as Thai troops remain in the disputed area, the radio said.

Meanwhile, Thai forces have sealed the border at three districts of Loei province.

The source said Thai defence volunteers, Border Patrol Police and Mekong Operation Units were deployed along the banks of the Mekong River in Chaing Khan and Dan Sai districts, and along the Huang River in Na Haeo district.

There was no boat traffic along the two rivers after Loei governor Chew in Sutthisuwan ordered the border closed in Pak Chom, Chiang Khan, Phu Rua, Dan Sai and Na Haeo districts.

"The closure is to prevent Lao people from sneaking across the border to get strategic goods and to bar unscrupulous Thai merchants from sending strategic goods over to Laos, which may be delivered to Lao soldiers at Ban Romklao," said the governor.

"We cannot let this happen because it could affect national security," he said.

The source said about 40,000 people, including volunteers and village scouts, from all districts of Loei would stage a rally in Muang district today to demonstrate their dissatisfaction with Laos over the ongoing conflict.

In Bangkok, Prime Minister's secretary-general Prasong Sunsiri described the proposal for unconditional talks made by Lao Ambassador Khamphan Simmalavong as "a pretence."

He said an agenda should be fixed for the talks since it would be useless if both sides did not know what was to be discussed.

The former NSC [National Security Council] chief said he agreed with the closure of the border in Loei, saying this should have been done at the start of the dispute.

"This is not a persecution. We are acting out of self-defence," he said.

On the Lao ambassador's comment that ongoing demonstrations against Laos should stop to clear the atmosphere for talks, Sqd Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong said there had been similar demonstrations organised by Vientiane but Thailand had never commented on them.

Laos should not blame the Thai people for expressing their patriotism, he said.

"Vientiane should not believe too much in reports from its ambassador to Thailand. It should check whether the reports are accurate or not," he said.

He said Lao Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut was welcome if he wants to visit Thailand for talks.

"But, the talks should be based on mutual interest. They (Laos) should speak out sincerely and straightforwardly on pertinent problems," he said. Sqd Ldr Prasong criticised Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salithirat for destroying a calm atmosphere during the last talks.

The military would continue its efforts to push out the intruders, he said.

Hill Positions Retaken

BK010115 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
1 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Laotian troops have been driven from most of the hill positions at the disputed Ban Romklao area after two days and three nights of clashes and artillery duels, a field source said yesterday.

The only Lao positions remaining to be retaken are on Hill 1428, an important vantage point in the area in Chat Trakarn district of Phitsanulok.

Thai forces have so far seized hills 1142, 1146, 1182 and 1370 following continuous exchanges since early Friday morning, the source said.

From 2.30 a.m., Lao soldiers fired more than 30 mortar rounds at Thai positions in a barrage that ended at 5.15 a.m.

At 10 a.m. yesterday, about 300 troops from five Lao battalions that had been at the front since January 18 were withdrawn for a rest to Huai To camp, in Muang Kenthao, about 16 km from the border with Tha Li district of Loei.

Soldiers of battalions 404, 406, 410, 412 and 413 replaced them at the front line from 6 a.m.

A Lao Army radio broadcast monitored in Loei yesterday morning continued to attack demonstrations by Thais against Laos.

The radio said Lao soldiers were determined to capture Ban Romklao if diplomatic efforts proved fruitless.

Cuban 'Volunteers' Present

BK300852 Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese
30 Jan 88 p 16

[Text] According to an unconfirmed news report, some 1,000 Cuban volunteers are preparing to help Vietnam fight Thailand.

Citing an "intelligence" report, a source said that Cuban volunteers armed with heavy weapons are arriving in Laos. This is the second time that Cuban volunteers have been in Laos based on a record of Cuban volunteers entering Laos in the past.

The source pointed out that the Cuban volunteers belong to the "Dare To Die Corps." Their purpose is to help Lao soldiers fighting Thailand to capture Thai territory.

The source also said that Lao troops will fight Thailand at two strategic passes on the Thai-Lao border: Romklao village in the Chat Trakan District of Phitsanulok Province and Dan Sai District of Loei Province.

Chawalit Denies Lao 'Propaganda'

BK301450 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5
in Thai 1300 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Interview with General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander in chief and acting supreme commander, by unidentified correspondent at the Army Auditorium in Bangkok on 27 January—recorded]

[Text] [Chawalit] I think that it is not true. We should try to think positively about them even though they have complained about us and disregarded us in their actions

despite of our constant good feelings toward them. This is their problem, not ours. We have tried to be patient and to be friends and to uphold propriety.

[Correspondent] They published reports that our soldiers had entered their territory.

[Chawalit] They talk nonsense. That is the way Laos presents news. In fact, I'll have nothing to do with it. However, if such news is published frequently, they will lose credibility with those who are well informed. The Laotians simply made groundless statements that they had downed an F-5 jet and that we had lost hundreds of soldiers. Their propaganda is incorrect and is not the sort of thing that is done among friends.

[Correspondent] Is the Lao (?ambassador) still trying to meet with you?

[Chawalit] I cannot meet with him regardless of how hard he tries. I do not know if he will try. That is his business.

[Correspondent] How long do you think it will take us to [words indistinct]?

[Chawalit] We have to be patient. We may have to get tough unless an agreement is reached in the next few days.

Laos Envoy Proposes Start-up of Border Talks
OW300219 Tokyo KYODO in English 0158 GMT
30 Jan 88

[Text] Bangkok, Jan. 30 KYODO—Laos Friday proposed an early start of unconditional negotiations with Thailand on the protracted bilateral border conflict which began last May, according to Thai Foreign Ministry sources.

The proposal was delivered by Laotian Ambassador Khampham Simmalavong to a senior Foreign Ministry official.

The Thai official promised to convey the proposal to ministry leaders, though he made no comment on the Thai response to it, the sources said.

The two countries started the conflict last May over the territorial right on a 75-square-kilometer strip of the hilly jungle about 435 kilometers north of Bangkok.

It has escalated to sporadic armed clashes since mid-December. At least more than 30 people have died in the conflict on the Thai side, according to Thai sources.

The dispute dates to a 1907 treaty that delineated the border but left some uncertainty about the hilly strip.

Government Position Unchanged

BK300117 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
30 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Laos proposed unconditional talks with Thailand yesterday to resolve the Ban Romklao conflict as thousands protested in Bangkok and Chiang Rai against Vientiane's claims to the border area.

The overture came in a copy of a Laotian Foreign Ministry press statement delivered by Ambassador Kamphan Simmalavong to political department director M.R. Thep Thewakun during talks at the Foreign Ministry.

Ministry spokesman Sarot Chawanawirat said Mr Kamphan complained to M.R. Thep about protests outside his embassy on Sathon Road on Wednesday [27 January] and yesterday, claiming such action was not conducive to an improved political climate.

The envoy was told Thailand is a free country whose people are free to express their opinions on all issues, including the Phitsanulok province border conflict, said Mr Sarot.

"However, we have an obligation to protect the Laotian Embassy and the ambassador. We have asked police to look into the matter," said the spokesman.

Mr Sarot said M.R. Thep took Vientiane's approach as an important matter and, in accordance with diplomatic tradition, felt it should be handled through proper channels.

That Laos called a press conference before approaching the Thai ambassador in Vientiane showed Laos hoped for a propaganda gain, said Mr Sarot.

However, Mr Kamphan's approach could be regarded as an official move by Vientiane.

Thailand's position remained unchanged, said Mr Sarot.

"That is, we are ready for talks only when all Laotian troops withdraw from our territory."

In Bangkok yesterday afternoon, about 1,000 people, who said they represented 23 groups of the Coordinating Centre to Protect Thai Sovereignty, protested at the Laotian Embassy.

About 100 policemen were on hand to control the demonstrators who wanted to hand over a protest letter they were unable to deliver during their rally there on Wednesday.

Carrying placards and banners, the protesters urged Laos to withdraw from the disputed area.

The protesters carried effigies of Laotian Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihane, Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut, Deputy Foreign Minister Sounbanh Salitthilat and Defence Minister Gen Khamta Siphandon.

They dropped their plan to burn the effigies when no Laotian diplomats appeared to receive their letter and instead made a bonfire of the banners and placards and chanted as they threw firecrackers.

The protesters, who dispersed at 4 p.m., said they would return on Thursday [4 February] and warned of violence if embassy officials did not receive them.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Pol Lt-Gen Manat Khruchaiyan said security at the Laotian mission had been stepped up since the border dispute started.

Pol Lt-Gen Manat said the protesters had no intention to cause damage but that police were present to prevent outsiders from taking advantage.

In Chiang Rai province, about 3,000 college and secondary school students staged a similar demonstration at Pho Khun Meng Rai intersection in Muang district. The students attacked Laos in speeches for undermining the peaceful atmosphere along the border.

One speaker, Seksan Manirat, queried the sincerity of Vientiane.

Border Closure Considered

*BK010129 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
1 Feb 88 pp 1, 3*

[Excerpts] The Thai-Lao border may be closed if the conflict at Ban Romklao in Phitsanulok deteriorates further, National Security Council secretary-general Suwit Suthanukun said yesterday.

The warning came amid increasing anti-Laotian sentiment as tens of thousands of people converged for rallies in at least 23 provinces to demand a Laotian troop withdrawal.

Mr Suwit said Thailand had considered the conflict an isolated case which should not affect policy on cross-border ties. "But the situation is still the same," he said. "If it deteriorates, we may be forced to shut all border crossing with Laos."

Prime Minister's secretary-general Prasong Sunsiri said on Saturday the government should start closing checkpoints at problematic border fronts. Border crossings in Loei province were reported to have been shut but other points remain open.

In Nong Khai, Governor Santi Manikan told more than 20,000 protesters he was considering the closure of border checkpoints.

The protesters marched through Nong Khai town yesterday morning before gathering at the town hall to demand a Laotian troop withdrawal and the closure of checkpoints.

Big protests were also reported in Nan, Sisaket, Nakhon Phanom, Surin, Khon Kaen, Mukdahan, Roi-et, Uttaradit, Udon Thani, Loei, Nakhon Ratchasima, Phitsanulok, Lampang, Chumphon, Surat Thani, Ranong, Krabi, Pattani and Phuket. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Laotian Ambassador Khamphan Simmalavong said that Laotian Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut is ready for talks with Thailand to resolve the border conflict if a troop withdrawal is not a precondition.

He said Mr Phoun was ready for talks in Bangkok or Vientiane and all Thailand had to do was make a request, but Lao troops would not leave the disputed area.

On Friday, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said he would welcome a visit by Mr Phoun this month and remarked that Laos has said it wanted to send a delegation to Bangkok to mark His Majesty the King's 60th birthday.

"I'm sure Mr Phoun is ready to come to Bangkok if Thailand makes a request," said Mr Kamphan, without saying what form the request should take.

"And it is not just Mr Phoun, but officials at all levels who are willing to meet Thai officials," he said.

Laos has suggested talks start in February because Vientiane wants to resolve the conflict quickly.

"One year of talks results in fewer losses than one day of fighting," he said.

Demonstrators Protest Laotian 'Intrusion'

Rallies in 3 Provinces

*BK310240 Bangkok THE NATION in English
31 Jan 88 pp 1, 2*

[Text] Nearly 150,000 Thais rallied in three separate provinces yesterday to protest the Laotian intrusion near Ban Romklao, Phitsanulok, and to show support for the army campaign to flush out the intruders.

The largest rally was in the provincial seat of Phitsanulok where about 50,000 people from five districts converged in front of the provincial administrative office at about 2 pm. Speakers took turns attacking the Laotian government and condemning the intrusion.

They also issued four demands:

(1) Complete withdrawal of all Laotian forces from Thai territory within 24 hours after the demands have been submitted to Thai authorities.

(2) Severance of diplomatic ties with the Laotian government and closure of all border passes to Laos if the first demand is not met.

(3) The Thai government must order the Third Army Region to take immediate and drastic actions against the Laotian intruders and drive them out of Thai territory as soon as possible.

(4) The Thai government must also order the First, Second and Fourth Region armies, as well as the air force, to support the Third Army whenever assistance is needed.

Phitsanulok governor Noppharat Wetchasat told the demonstrators that he would forward these demands to the Thai government.

Effigies of Laotian leaders were burned before the demonstrators dispersed without violence.

There were also rallies to protest the Laotian government in four other districts of this northern border province. Authorities said about 20,000 people attended each of these four rallies.

In Nakhon Ratchasima where there is a large Laotian ethnic community, about 12,000 people, most of them students, defence volunteers and village scouts, rallied at the monument of Lady Suranari in the provincial seat to condemn the Laotian intrusion.

Speakers at this rally, however, emphasized that the Thai people still want friendly relations with Laotian people. But they criticized the Laotian government for showing unusual hostility toward Thailand. Some of the speakers accused Hanoi of manipulating the Laotian government.

Many of the speakers also called for a peaceful settlement of the border dispute, saying that the two brotherly neighbours should refrain from further bloodshed.

Nakhon Ratchasima governor Sombun Thaiwatcharamat thanked the demonstrators for showing their patriotism and promised to report to the Interior Ministry the call for negotiations to end the border dispute.

The demonstration, which began at about 8 am ended about two hours later without incident.

About 3,000 demonstrators in Chiang Rai also called for a peaceful settlement to the border dispute.

The demonstrators, many of them students, gathered in front of the monument of King Meng Rai, to hear speakers talk about the border dispute. Most of the speakers in the northernmost province emphasized the need to settle the dispute peacefully.

Student leaders also submitted an open letter to the provincial authorities, urging them to inform the Thai government of their desire to see a quick peaceful end to the dispute.

In Bangkok, meanwhile, there was no demonstration in front of the Laotian Embassy yesterday after angry protesters gathered in front of the embassy Wednesday and Friday to denounce the Laotian intrusion.

Rallies in North, Northeast

BK310906 [Editorial Report] Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai at 0530 GMT on 31 January carries a 6-minute report with recorded portions on rallies held in Lampang, Sisaket, and Khon Kaen Provinces to protest the Lao incursion into Ban Romklao in the Thai district of Chat Trakan in Phitsanulok Province.

Lampang-based correspondent Suthira Chinkanchana reports that about 10,000 people, including village scouts, members of the volunteer defense corps, reserve militia, and women's territorial defense volunteers, as well as students and the general public in Lampang, marched through the city's main streets on 31 January to protest the Lao violation of Thai territory in Ban Romklao. They carried posters urging the Thai Government to use "drastic measures" to retaliate against the incursion and expressed their readiness to "sacrifice their lives to defend Thai territory." The rally was addressed by Lampang Deputy Governor Suphong Soraram.

A correspondent from Sisaket reports that at 1000, a group of some 10,000 people, including members of the volunteer defense corps, ranger volunteers, village scouts, pedicab drivers, students, and people from various districts of Sisaket Province, held a rally to protest the Lao action. They carried placards condemning Laos and Vietnam's support for it. Addressing the gathering, Sisaket Governor Chamlong Ratprasert stated: "We cannot allow Laos to occupy our territory. Thai brothers, especially those from Sisaket Province, must join together in protesting Laos' action and ask the government to hold talks with Laos to settle the issue through peaceful means." "If Laos does not listen to reason, we are ready. Brothers, we will fight."

The report concludes with a dispatch from a Radio Thailand correspondent, who notes that approximately 30,000 people from various districts of Khon Kaen held a rally this morning at the city hall to protest the Lao incursion into Ban Romklao. Khon Kaen Governor Satda Ophong said that various mass groups in his province held the rally to demonstrate their patriotism.

Rally in Nakhon Ratchasima

BK300810 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Excerpts] At 0900 today, some 12,000 people from various districts of Nakhon Ratchasima Province demonstrated in front of the Thao Suranari Monument in Nakhon Ratchasima. The protestors demanded that

Laos stop its violations of Thai territory in Ban Romklao, which is in the Chat Trakan District of Phitsanulok Province. Bandit Tangprasoei, a Radio Thailand public relations official in Nakhon Ratchasima, reports:

[Begin recording] Over 12,000 people, including students and members of the Thai National Defense Volunteers Corps, the Village Scout movement, and such a large group as the Reservists for National Security movement, participated in the demonstration. The participants demanded that the LPDR withdraw its forces from Ban Romklao, which belongs to Thailand. They also demanded that, because the Thai and Lao peoples are like brothers, the LPDR turn to negotiation to solve the border dispute. Many participants used loudspeakers to air their views and carried protest posters. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The demonstration ended peacefully at 0930.

Loei Province To Register Laotian Refugees
BK291211 Bangkok Domestic Service in English
0000 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The Loei provincial administration will register Laotian refugees at its Pak Chom Holding Center as a measure to prevent illegal entry of Hmong hilltribe people across the border from Laos into this northeastern province. The registration plan also includes issuance of cards for refugees in the camp to help in monitoring the number of immigrants. The Interior Ministry has also approved the program and asked for funding from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. There are currently approximately 40,200 Laotian refugees in the center.

Vietnam Releases 357 Fishermen for 'Ransom'
BK300153 Bangkok THE NATION in English
30 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Two of the 359 Thais arrested for fishing illegally in Vietnamese waters died of malaria while in Vietnamese jails only weeks before their release, according to fishermen who returned to Bangkok yesterday.

The 357 freed fishermen—many of them in poor health—were welcomed by hundreds of relatives and government officials when they arrived yesterday morning at Don Muang Airport on two charter flights.

To secure their release, the Thai government paid 11,585,670 baht in fines and other expenses, which will be repaid later by trawler operators and the fishermen, a Foreign Ministry press release said.

However, the 18 Thai trawlers seized by Vietnamese authorities will not be returned.

Many of the returnees contracted skin diseases, while others complained of the terrible conditions inside the jails.

The ministry criticized Vietnam for discrimination against Thai fishermen by demanding a large sum of payment, which the release termed "ransom," for the return of the fishermen.

"Vietnam does not treat us on equal terms with other countries. They arrested Chinese fishermen and released them without charge while we have to pay US\$1,000 in ransom for each of our fishermen," Witthaya [not further identified] said.

Chaiphot Tirawanit, a Hanoi-based Thai embassy official who accompanied the fishermen to Bangkok, said he has learned from Vietnamese authorities that more than 200 Thai fishermen were arrested and detained in Vietnamese jails. But he did not say when the arrests took place.

Vietnam

Border With PRC To Open During New Year
OW301209 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT
30 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi, Jan 30 KYODO—Vietnam will lift travel restrictions along its border with China and implement a unilateral ceasefire during the Tet lunar New Year holidays in February, informed sources said Saturday.

They said an official announcement to this effect will be made around February 8.

It will be the first time since the Sino-Vietnam hostilities in 1979 that Hanoi will ease travel restrictions across its border with China.

The sources said the border will be opened for people living in areas along the boundary for about one month around New Year's Day February 18.

Hanoi will observe a unilateral ceasefire this year as in past years, they said.

Relative calm returned to the border area after an exchange of fire across the border in early January.

China said Vietnamese troops fired 2,000 rounds of ammunition across the border. Vietnam said the Chinese side fired 3,000 rounds at Vietnamese posts along the western sector of the border.

Official Declines To Comment on Sihanouk
BK301322 Hong Kong AFP in English 1300 GMT
30 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi, Jan 30 (AFP)—Vietnam had no immediate comment Saturday on news that Prince Sihanouk was quitting as president of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea.

"It is still too early to be able to comment on this subject," an official Vietnamese source said.

For its part, the Phnom Penh Government Embassy here took note of the report from Beijing, without making any comment.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in the Chinese capital, Prince Sihanouk said he was quitting as head of the tripartite Cambodian resistance government.

But he indicated that he was ready to talk with Vietnamese representatives to find a solution to the Cambodian conflict.

Vietnam, which has 140,000 soldiers in Cambodia to support the Phnom Penh government against the resistance government and its guerrillas, has refused to meet with Prince Sihanouk, saying the Cambodian problem was one for Cambodians to settle among themselves.

WPC's Romesh Chandra Interviewed on Cambodia
BK301030 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Station correspondent's interview with Romesh Chandra, president of the World Peace Council at a Hanoi press conference held during his "recent" visit to Vietnam—recorded]

[Text] A delegation of the World Peace Council led by President Romesh Chandra recently visited Kampuchea, Laos, and Vietnam. Speaking at a press conference in Hanoi, Mr Romesh Chandra said: The World Peace Council will strive to encourage progressive public opinion to support and create favorable conditions for a solution to the Kampuchea issue.

Answering questions of newsmen about the positive changes in Southeast Asia and the possibility in solving the Kampuchea issue, Mr Romesh Chandra said:

[Begin Chandra recording] I think that the new initiatives which are there for peace, security, and cooperation in Southeast Asia which have been put forward by Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea. [as heard] They are now beginning to bear new fruits. And this is because we are living in a new world marked by advances on a world scale or a regional scale for peace in a manner never seen before. And that is a joint initiative or joint communique between the foreign minister of Indonesia and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach of Vietnam.

This shows the change which has been there. The change in the attitude of the countries of ASEAN who, perhaps, before were not taking such an interest in these proposals. And as for Kampuchea, I think the proposals for national reconciliation, for a political solution, which were put forward by the People's Republic of Kampuchea have begun to bear the first fruits. The meeting between Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prince Norodom

Sihanouk—the first meeting in December—was, in a way, an indication of the deep desire of all people in Kampuchea and indeed in this region for a political solution. It is something in the interest of all people. It is the sign of the strength of the people of this region, of the People's Republic of Kampuchea's tremendous achievements in wiping out the tremendous devastation of the genocide regime, and the desire for a Kampuchea which is fully independent and sovereign, neutral, nonaligned, democratic. This is something which was reflected in the first meeting.

We are looking forward to the second meeting and we hope that it will take further steps in the direction that the people of Kampuchea want. We extend, the World Peace Council extends its full support to all these initiatives which are being taken. We believe that it is necessary for public opinion everywhere to support these initiatives, support them with the full understanding of the difficulties which still exist. There are forces and important powers outside Southeast Asia which are sometimes not interested yet in solution of a peaceful nature and these interveners have intervened before. But there is something greater than the military power of these forces which are prompted from the outside. It is something more important, and that is the power of public opinion.

I have been in Kampuchea and I see the great desire of this mass of people who have such great achievements to their credit. It is the achievements of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in the economic field, political field, the strengthening of their capacity to defend themselves. It is this which gives us the confidence that it is possible to go forward for national reconciliation and to go forward with Vietnam in the effort for a zone of peace in the region. It is part of the whole struggle for peace and security in Asia and the Pacific. It is part of the whole struggle for a world without nuclear weapons. [end recording]

Commentaries on Lao-Thai Border Conflict

Sees Rising Tension

BK201419 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: The situation at the Lao-Thai border has become tense due to Thailand's increased armed provocations against Laos in Boten District, Sayaboury Province. Since mid-December 1977, Thailand has ceaselessly reinforced its infantry, artillery, and air force and even used chemical weapons to attack Boten area which belongs to Laos under the Franco-Siamese treaty signed half a century ago. On January 22d, 1988, several Thai officials made an inspection tour of the disputed area. They unilaterally claimed Thailand's sovereignty over Na Banoi area in Boten District and openly ordered land-grabbing attacks on Laos. The

situation in that area became more tense after the visit to Thailand of a Chinese vice premier. Many foreign news agencies said it is not a coincidence that the visit took place at a time when the Thai ultrarightists fomented border conflict in Boten District.

In face of the present grave situation, the Lao People's Democratic Republic on many occasions called on Thailand to sit at the negotiating table to solve the conflict to create favorable conditions for the normalization of relations between the two countries. In a statement issued on January 25th, 1988, the Lao Government once again reaffirmed its readiness to send a delegation to Bangkok at the beginning of February 1988 to negotiate with the Thai side. If for any reason, the latter is not in a position to receive it, the Lao People's Democratic Republic will be pleased to invite a Thai delegation to Vientiane at about the same period of time. That correct stand and goodwill attitude of Laos has been welcomed and supported by public opinion in the region and the world.

Encouraged by several international forces, The Thai ultrarightists continue to carry out land-grabbing attacks against Laos, thus causing tension in the region. Their actions are running counter to the trend of dialogue in the region and sabotaging the process of negotiations to solve the Kampuchean issue, the first step of which is the meeting between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Paris. By prolonging the conflict at the Lao-Thai border, the ultrarightists in the Thai Administration are running counter to the interests of the Thai and Lao people and peace in the region. The best way forward is for Thailand to stop immediately all its land-grabbing attacks, withdraw Thai armed forces from Lao territory, and quickly sit down at the negotiating table to solve all problems in the relations between the two countries by peaceful means on the principle of equality and without preconditions.

Urges Thailand To Attend Talks

*BK290536 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 28 Jan 88*

[Station Commentary: "Thailand Should Positively Respond to Lao Proposal for Talks"]

[Text] Our people have attentively watched the bad developments in Lao-Thai relations because the ultrarightist reactionaries in the Bangkok ruling circles have intentionally encroached upon Lao territory and have stirred up armed conflict. At the same time, they have impeded negotiations to settle the conflict between the two countries. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) Government on 25 January 1988 issued a statement clearly pointing out the real status of Lao-Thai relations and systematically denouncing the plots of some villains in Thai ruling circles to conduct provocative intrusions into Lao territory.

Particularly serious was the fact that since 15 December 1987, they have intensified their forces to launch fierce attacks, mobilizing both the Air Force and assorted artillery pieces to successively bombard and inconsiderately open fire on Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province of Laos. They have used both phosphorous and toxic chemical shells.

The LPDR Government's statement clearly pointed out the seriousness of an incident which occurred on 22 January. Prime Minister Prem Tinsunalon of the Kingdom of Thailand together with his foreign, defense, and interior ministers, infantry commander concurrently Army commander in chief, and infantry deputy commander, assistant commander, and chief of staff inspected the Thai-Lao border area. During this inspection tour, Thai Prime Minister himself distorted the internationally recognized legal document with a view to legalizing their intrusion into Lao territory. The LPDR totally rejects the wrongful argument of the Thai side and asserts its sovereignty over and territorial integrity of Na Banoi area based on legal documents, facts, maps, and landmarks.

No doubt that Thai prime minister's statement during his tour of Thai-Lao border on 22 January attests to the Thai plot to use military measures to invade Lao territory and to its unwillingness to ease tension in the relations between the two countries through negotiation. This has caused concern to the general public. Of more concern was that Thailand's acts have been encouraged by some international reactionaries in order to cause regional tension, running counter to the developing trend for dialogue in Southeast Asia.

To cover up its illegal acts, the Thai side has brazenly accused Vietnam of standing behind the conflict. By making an accusation, which is like putting a smoking gun in another's hands, a group of villains in Thailand have attempted to defend their isolated position before public opinion by deceiving the Thai people and serving foreign reactionary forces' policy of causing tension and confrontation.

It was no mere coincidence that Chinese Vice Premier Wan Li visited Thailand when Thailand provoked the conflict and occupied the Boten area of Laos. The situation has become increasingly serious ever since.

All of the general public has clearly seen the constructive stand and attitude of goodwill of the LPDR. The Lao side has all along striven to contain this serious incident. It has several times proposed that both sides together could settle it through negotiation on the principle of equality without any prerequisites. In its 25 January 1988 statement, the LPDR Government stipulated its readiness to send its delegation to Bangkok in early February to hold talks with Thailand. If for any reason, the Thai side could not welcome the Lao delegation, the LPDR would readily invite a Thai delegation to Vientiane at the same time.

The constructive stand and goodwill of Laos will certainly win the sympathy and support of world public opinion. The Thai people also will certainly welcome the Lao initiative and support the Lao Government's appeal in the name of traditional friendship and in an effort to end useless bloodshed. They will promote talks between the two sides to restore the good neighborly relations between the two nations of Laos and Thailand.

Our people fully sympathize with, and support, the LPDR Government's statement that reflects the fundamental spirit of peace and negotiation and expresses its desire to negotiate with the Thai side to settle the conflict. Our people demand the Thai side put an end to its military intrusion into and occupation of Lao territory, withdraw all its military forces from Lao territory, and positively respond to the LPDR's proposal for talks.

359 Thai Fishermen Released 29 January
BK291052 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The People's Committees of Kien Giang and Minh Hai Provinces in southern Vietnam have decided to release 359 Thai fishermen who were caught when intruding into Vietnam's territorial waters for poaching. The handover took place in Ho Chi Minh City on Friday [29 January].

A representative of the Thai Embassy in Vietnam received these fishermen.

Reagan's State of Union Address Criticized
BK291331 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The Vietnamese National Daily NHAN DAN said: The 25 January State of the Union address of U.S. President Ronald Reagan admitted to failure and tiredness on the part of the Reagan administration.

In its commentary on Friday, NHAN DAN pointed out that President Reagan tried to ignore its ever-more serious trouble since World War II in the U.S. stock market and the Iran-Contra gate, and the heavy setbacks in the presidential term of Ronald Reagan.

NHAN DAN criticized President Reagan for pushing for an increase of the military budget, especially for the Strategic Defense Initiative commonly known as the "Star Wars" program and for continuing to send aid to the Contras, Zionists, and the reactionaries in Afghanistan, Angola, and Kampuchea.

Official on Nicaragua, Central America
BK301642 Hanoi VNA in English 1543 GMT
30 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 30—"The National Assembly, government and people of Vietnam welcome and highly value the good will and positive acts of the

Nicaraguan Government and people in their serious and full implementation of the provisions of the Central American peace treaty," said State Council Vice President Nguyen Huu Tho while receiving here today Nicaraguan Ambassador Mrs. Olga Aviles Lopez.

The ambassador briefed him of the situation in Nicaragua, Central America and the Caribbean. The vice-president continued:

"We demand that the US administration give up its policy of intervention and aggression against Nicaragua and the national liberation movement in the other countries in Central America and respect the aspiration for peace of the peoples in Latin America as expounded in the treaty. It must stop at once its support for the contras, first of all, refrain from submitting to Congress the 270-million-dollar aid bill to them."

NHAN DAN on U.S. Policy
BK010940 Hanoi VNA in English 0709 GMT
1 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA 1 February—The U.S. Administration must put an immediate end to its aid to the contras and respect the Guatemala peace treaty and the right to self-determination of nations, says NHAN DAN in a commentary today on U.S. President Reagan's proposal for 36 million-dollars immediate aid to the contras.

The paper says:

The United States is deliberately using the contras as its trump card in its dirty gamble in Central America.

By using the contra mercenaries, prosecuting its undeclared war against Nicaragua to cause constant instability in Central America, the Washington administration is grossly interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, trampling underfoot international law and the principles governing relations among countries. Washington's interference is the main obstacle to the building of a life in peace, freedom, democracy and prosperity in Central America and Latin America.

The Guatemala Peace Treaty, now more than 5 months old, has proven its practicability as an instrument of peace in the whole region. Washington alone has been opposing this treaty.

NHAN DAN goes on:

Peace for Central America now is not in the interests of the nations in this region alone. It is the common frontline of peace- and freedom-loving forces in all continents.

By persisting its hostile policy toward Nicaragua and trying to impose a military solution to the situation in Central America, Washington is going counter to the common trend of peace and democracy which is running high in the western hemisphere.

NHAN DAN Calls for Middle East Conference
*BK300954 Hanoi VNA in English 0705 GMT
30 Jan 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 30—NHAN DAN in a commentary today stresses that it is time to convene an international conference on the Middle East.

Commenting on Soviet Foreign Minister E. Shevardnadze's recent letter to the United Nations General Secretary on this matter the paper says :

"This proposal meets the aspiration of most countries in the region for holding an international conference to solve the fundamental problems of the region, stop the bloodshed of the Palestinian people and find out peaceful solutions for the interests of all nations in the region."

"The fresh commitment made by the U.S. to back Israel in obtaining its expansionist aims have proven to be a big obstacle in the process of establishing an enduring peace in the Middle East", NHAN DAN notes.

It says: "Developments in the Middle East in recent years have shown that the [Camp] David accord signed between Egypt and Israel has not met the requirement for establishing peace in the region. Only an overall solution to be adopted at an international conference with the participation of the five member-countries of the United Nations Security Council and the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, can bring lasting peace to the Middle East".

Pham Hung Receives Indian Businessmen
*BK311550 Hanoi VNA in English 1526 GMT
31 Jan 88*

[Text] Hanoi, VNA Jan 31—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Hung received in Ho Chi Minh City on January 30 a delegation of the Central India Machinery Manufacturing Company Limited (CIMMCO) led by its president, D.P. Mandelia. The delegation, which arrived on Thursday for the inauguration of a jute factory named after the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and built with CIMMCO assistance, also includes D.K. Goyal, executive president of CIMMCO.

Chairman Pham Hung hailed the initial results of the cooperation between CIMMCO and Ho Chi Minh City and other localities of Vietnam. He expressed his belief that the cooperation between Vietnam and India in general, and Ho Chi Minh City and CIMMCO in particular, would be further developed.

The delegation was also received by Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs.

Earlier, they compared notes with Le Van Triet, vice mayor of Ho Chi Minh City, on measures to ensure the effective operation of the jute bag factory and broaden their bilateral cooperation.

Nguyen Van Linh Visits Long An Province
*BK311330 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 30 Jan 88*

[Text] Dear friends: Long An Province became quite familiar to the comrade general secretary during the resistance war against the French colonialists and U.S. imperialists and it is a place he has often visited since liberation.

According to the comrade general secretary, Long An Province has taken many good steps. In particular, with the implementation of the policy to add price differentials to wages, the province has gradually embarked on economic accountability to ensure the efficiency of business activities, which is why he decided to visit the province to assess the situation.

The comrades in Long An Province had been informed in advance by the comrade general secretary of his intention to visit localities with satisfactory track records as well as those with poor ones. In this way, he would have a chance to hear straightforward comments by the local cadres and people and get a true picture of the situation, thus enabling him to study the overall national situation.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh spent 4 days visiting and holding practical working sessions in Long An Province. After attending a briefing on the overall situation in the province, the comrade general secretary called on the Phuoc Tu Cooperative of Thanh Phu Village, Ben Luc District, which he had been told had a fairly good performance record.

Set up 9 years ago on an infertile plot of land in the district, the cooperative has a membership of 164 families working on 176 hectares of croplands.

Before, the cooperative planted two crops a year on only 24.8 hectares while the rest, which consists of alkaline, saline, acid, and sandy soils, was only fit for planting a single crop. As annual productivity was low, the cooperative members faced difficulties in their daily life, and as many as 36 families did not produce enough to eat.

At present, thanks to efforts to carry out cropland planning, build embankments to control salinity, dig irrigation canals and ditches, apply technical advances in crop allocation and cultivation scheduling, try new seed varieties, and apply fertilizer, the cooperative's double-cropping area has tripled. It has purchased two tractors

and a rice thresher and built two warehouses, a level-I school, a nursery, and a kindergarten; and the life of its members has improved. At Phuoc Tu, the laborer with the highest income earns 1,500 kg of paddy a year; and the one with the lowest income, 650 kg—not counting the income derived from overfulfillment of contract quotas. Some 101 families are now earning more than they did before joining the cooperative; and only 5 are earning less. Earnings from supplementary family economic activities account for 45% of the gross income; and the annual combined income from both the collective and family sources of each laborer at Phuoc Tu reaches 180,000 dong.

The comrade general secretary remarked: Well, this income is more than the average worker earns.

Then, turning to the comrade secretary of the provincial party committee, he said: So, in this unit with a fairly good track record, only 60% of laborers earn more than they did while working independently. As far as the people are concerned, high income and a good life obviously have a great appeal. However, why is it that even in a unit that is doing fairly well like this, there are still five families earning less than they did before?

The comrade chairman of the cooperative replied: Those families are short of in labor. Since contracts are drawn up on the basis of labor capacity, they do not receive sufficient land.

The comrade chairman held that end-product contracts serve as a driving force as they give more responsibility to cooperative families and greatly encourage them to develop production. However, he remarked, product contracts still display some irrationalities. For example, the cooperative, going by the book, assumed certain work assignments that could have been taken care of by cooperative members, but failed to finish them in time, thus affecting crop productivity; and cooperative members found this unacceptable. Furthermore, it is logical for contracts to be drawn up on the basis of labor capacity as this ensures the accomplishment of tasks, but while branches and trades are nonexistent, those families of war dead with no or little labor capacity have had a low level of income because they are not qualified for land allocation. Meanwhile, instead of being ineligible for land allocation as previously, some families whose members served the old regime were given a lot of land under contracts to match their large labor capacity; and they consequently enjoyed better living conditions. This situation has raised questions in the rural areas. Corrective action, however, has been taken to remedy this. Cooperative members are now allocated as much land by the cooperative as they can handle. Land is contracted out on the basis of labor capacity and in accordance with the needs of each family. Those families that did not have land before and are not eligible for land allocation are encouraged by the cooperative to clear virgin land in the Plain of Reeds.

The comrade general secretary said: Thus, product contracts are sound enough; but the problem is that when formulating policies and guiding their implementation, we have failed to take the social situation of each locality into close consideration.

The general secretary also inquired about crop patterns and other trades of Phuoc Tu. Comrades at Phuoc Tu and in Long An Province frankly reported on difficulties as a result of price fluctuations, shortages of essential materials, and the need to buy them to serve production. The general secretary said: We have had to spend foreign currency to import materials. The problem is that not only are we faced with a shortage of materials, but there has also been a problem with red tape in their transportation which has caused losses in one way or another. These materials have even been stolen in some localities. I was informed that bags of fertilizer did not carry their actual weight because they were skimmed off during transportation, and grass-roots units and producers could do nothing about this. This practice has caused difficulty to the peasant, damaged state property and the barter system, and spoiled cadres. All materials for production face the same situation and we must overcome this problem. There were also difficulties at good localities because only 50% of the collective members are entitled to a better standard of living than individuals. If we need a vigorous development, we must ensure favorable conditions for production establishments and apply an appropriate and effective management system, while ensuring profit for producers and urging peasants not to demand too low prices for materials from the state.

Leaving Phuoc Tu, the general secretary wanted to see a weak locality, but many comrades invited him to a good one which has maintained production collectives so that he could study the situation. Thus a visit was paid to collective No 7 at Binh Dong hamlet, My Binh village, Vang Co District. The collective was established in 1980 with 48 families which relied on 37 cultivated hectares. Of these, 18 families used 17 hectares for their individual cultivation. The material base of this collective, built 8 years ago, has produced no fruitful result. In its early stage, the collective collected 2.5 quintals of paddy per hectare per crop, now it merely achieves up to 3.5 quintals per hectare. The new head of the collective sincerely informed the general secretary that income of the collective members is lower than that of outside peasants. It should be borne in mind that the annual income of each primary laborer is only 750 kg of paddy while the per capita income is 280 kg. The general secretary asked the collective head why collective members earned less than individuals and the answer was that collective members have not received sufficient assistance, while they had to contribute to the collective fund and spent money for many other expenses. The collective had to build a school and roads, establish electricity lines and joint vegetation protection units, and set up other crop preventive posts. The general secretary called at the home of Mrs Hai Thuong at the Binh Tay hamlet, a blind mother of three fallen combatants, while he

continued listening to the collective head's report. He asked Mrs Hai Thuong whether she heard the report, to which she answered: The report was correct.

The general secretary proposed that village cadres should review the situation of collective No 7. Sister Tu, secretary of the village, contributed ideas and criticized that My Binh village was formerly a fine village but now its situation is deteriorating. During the past period, when it wanted to score achievements, it forced collectives to contribute funds to pay for taxes in order to receive commendations. As a result, it has repeatedly asked for loans from collectives thereby causing shortage of cash-flow at these establishments. However, Sister Tu contended that there are still fine collectives in the village, and that the most serious shortcomings at the village are bureaucratism in leadership and lack of democracy in supervision. She said: Meetings have been held for discussion but consensus has not been reached, especially ideas expressed from the higher echelons. The promotion of cadres has been decided without discussion and inspection, however. As a result, cadres of collective No 7 have been corrupt and have used collective funds for their own expenses. If collectives try to improve their tasks, frankly inform the people of their intention to replace bad cadres with the good ones in order to carry out tasks honestly, then they will win the people's love and support for their tasks and movements.

The comrade general secretary welcomed the straightforwardness and truthfulness displayed by the village and the production collective in making their reports. He acclaimed them for what they had accomplished and the good actions they had taken. He instructed: In developing agricultural production, especially the production of grain and food, and in building a new socialist countryside, it is necessary to increase investment and revise irrational policies. Some policies must be changed urgently because nothing has been done about them in spite of the people's persistent complaints. Efforts must be made to care for the families of war invalids and fallen heroes in order to justly return their services. The organization should not be allowed to remain cumbersome, overlapping, and multileveled as this will only cause inconvenience to the lower echelons. We must readjust management and adopt managerial methods that suit the capability of the cadres in each production collective. And it is absolutely necessary to struggle against negativism. To do this, party chapters and youth union chapters must be strong and rely on the people in their struggle. If party and youth union chapters acted in complicity with negative elements, things would be bad indeed. When Uncle Ho was alive, he talked about a new breed of oppressive mandarins. Not every cadre is a new mandarin, but degenerate and degraded elements who seek to bleed and oppress the people are the new oppressive mandarins. Officials of higher echelons should frequently visit localities where the movement is lagging to help them with suggestions, supplies, and cadre training so they can strengthen the movement. Intensive efforts must be made to push the movement forward evenly.

From Binh Dong, the comrade general secretary went on to inspect the Plain of Reeds, a well-known base area during the anti-French and anti-U.S. wars of resistance. To tap the potentials of the Plains of Reeds effectively, the province and some sectors, especially the Ministry of Water Conservancy, have chosen to arrange crop seasons in such a way as to avoid flash floods while building canals to bring in fresh water for planting two rice and subsidiary food crops a year. Implementing this plan in past years, the province has step by step successfully changed life in the Plains of Reeds.

Upon arriving in Tuyen Hanh, the comrade secretary general was very pleased to see with his own eyes the village's double-crop ricefields right in the middle of the Plain of Reeds where the winter-spring rice plants are growing luxuriantly like those found at intensively cultivated ricefields along the Tien and Hau rivers. He inspected the new rice seed developed by the Seed Institute in Can Tho.

Sitting down for a chat with Uncle Tu Trinh, he said:

—I am very happy. It is quite a surprise for me to find that the Plain of Reeds has changed so rapidly. Well, the life of the people here has improved and become better than in many other localities. Now, what more would the people here want?

—We want that road completed so that bicycles and motorcycles can run; electricity with which to listen to the radio, watch television, and light up our homes; and more supplies with which to increase production.

—What about machinery, don't you want that? The Mekong Delta and especially, the Plain of Reeds badly need machinery; and we are now producing some small types of machinery.

—Yes, we do; but the machinery we produce does not operate well at all.

—Granted that the things we make are not as good as those of foreign countries and more efforts are required of our workers, but we should use them to support domestic production of machinery. Now, about surplus paddy which is plentiful here, do you sell it to the state?

—Yes, we do, so long as the state has money and goods to offer to the people.

The comrade general secretary told Uncle Tu and others sitting around him: Your desire is also the desire of the party and the government. However, things will work out only gradually. You should increase production, pay taxes in full, and sell grain to the state for nationwide consumption. Don't be blinded by immediate gains and sell grain to private traders. The country will only become strong if the people are rich; and conversely, the people will only become rich if the country is strong and has plenty of grain. The state has countless things to take

care of so that peasants can work on ricefields. While visiting various units of the Dong Thap-1 group in Binh Hiep, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh joyfully met with representatives of all the four groups and commended them for their highly effective forms of organizing troops to engage in economic work.

Tens of thousands of youths in various assault army units have been tempered by the adverse climate in the Thap Muoi area. Some 150 families of discharged soldiers in the first batch have chosen to remain behind to resettle in the area that was built with their assistance and become permanent residents of the Thap Muoi area.

The comrade general secretary said: Our ancestors acknowledged the meritorious services of those who exploited virgin land and opened territory; so the meritorious services of those who exploited the Thap Muoi area will certainly be recorded in history. This also includes the work performed by you comrades and the local people.

After visiting and studying the situation at these units, the comrade general secretary devoted much time to holding talks with the provincial party committee and people's committee and a number of key local cadres. He also commended the party organization and people of Long An Province for their efforts.

Profoundly analyzing the relationship between a locality and the entire country, the comrade general said: If every locality is strong, the entire country will be strong. However, a locality can be strong only when the entire country is strong. He then pointed out clearly the difficulties facing the country at present and the successes that have been achieved by us as well as the great mistakes and shortcomings that we have committed.

He said: These mistakes and shortcomings have stemmed from the desire to do things quickly and superlatively, thus causing imbalance, dishonesty in the allocation of funds, enormous waste in various aspects, and a failure to concentrate efforts on investing in the three major economic programs, especially the grain and food program, as well as in the country's major marketable grain producing areas such as the Mekong river delta and other regions. Apart from this, the mechanism of bureaucratic and subsidy-based administration has caused a state of passivity and given rise to a wait-and-see attitude and many other negative phenomena while the management machinery, unwieldy and plagued with many unnecessary intermediary elements, has prevented materials and goods from reaching the hands of producers and fostered misappropriation throughout the process of transportation. From these mistakes, we have gained experience and become wiser in dealing with economic affairs in the recent past.

The comrade general secretary continued: The desire of the entire country in general and Long An in particular is to gradually escape from the present difficulties. To

achieve this, we must carry out simultaneously many tasks and concentrate efforts on accelerating the three major economic programs with the use of production as the base and emphasis on grain and food. We must also streamline the organizational structure; cut down on the number of intermediary elements; resolutely reduce the number of administrative staff personnel; gradually eradicate the mechanism of bureaucratic centralism and state subsidy and embark on socialist accounting and business; reorganize work related to circulation, distribution, supply, and service; and actively struggle against negativism.

Negativism is widely prevalent and taking place under numerous forms such as alienating oneself from the people and showing disregard for their views when it comes to making major decisions, being haughty toward the masses, repressing democracy, performing administrative work in a bureaucratic manner, receiving salaries without doing much work, expanding the management machinery at great expense but little results, refusing to renovate thinking, and committing theft and practicing corruption through various forms.

We must struggle against negativism persistently and constructively and not in a way that is merely aimed at competing with or harming each other or for the interests of any faction. We should criticize people promptly, straightforwardly, and publicly for their mistakes in order to help correct them in a spirit of comradeship. We must remain active and persist in the struggle against negativism with pure motives.

Laying special stress on the need to pay attention to party building and mass motivation work, the comrade general secretary said: Since the party is directing the process of renovation, we must consolidate and renovate it in order to enable it to live up to its duties. Our organization must be strong and our cadres equipped with skills and quality to fulfill their assignments in the task of renovation. The evaluation of cadres must be based on their deeds and not on their words. Cadres must stay close to the people and listen attentively to their suggestions and ensure that words match deeds. Meanwhile, party building is the duty of all party committee echelons that cannot be assigned to any component.

Finally, before his departure from Long An, Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh expressed the hope that the party organization of Long An—a province that has recorded many achievements over the past years—will make 1988 a year of renovation and new efficiency in all business activities.

Papers Mark 20th Anniversary of Tet Offensive
BK291125 Hanoi VNA in English 0715 GMT
29 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 29—The English-language paper VIETNAM WEEKLY in its latest issue runs an article to mark the coming 20th anniversary of the 1968 Tet Offensive.

The article says: at Tet (Lunar New Year's Festival) of 1968 the people's armed forces in coordination with people's uprisings in South Vietnam launched surprise attacks against the U.S. aggressors and the Saigon puppet administration in more than 100 cities and towns, including the major cities of Saigon, Hue, and Danang.

Simultaneously with this event, Vietnamese regular forces conducted a big campaign in the Highway 9-Khe Sanh area north of Hue to divert and destroy part of the enemy forces, especially U.S. troops.

This offensive, the biggest, most unexpected and effective in 1968, drove the enemy into utter confusion.

Historical facts have proved that the offensive and uprising of the southern armed forces and people in the spring of 1968 had won great victory, as it was recognized at the 21st Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam five years later, in 1973. The 21st plenum noted: "The Vietnamese Armed Forces and people destroyed a large number of enemy troops and their war means, liberated many millions of people, thereby shaking the U.S. will of aggression and defeating its "local war" strategy.

"They also made clear the fact that the U.S. could not use its expeditionary forces to win the war in Vietnam. The U.S., following this setback, had to de-escalate the war, unconditionally stop its air war against the north, and agree to attend the quadripartite conference in Paris."

On March 31, 1968, while the offensive and uprising were still seething in the south, President Lyndon Johnson made public a "new policy" about the Vietnam question. This policy dwelt on a shift from the "local war" strategy to the "de-Americanization" of the war (and later to the "Vietnamization" of the war). On this occasion he also declared that the U.S. would stop its war escalation and enter into negotiations, and that he himself would not seek another term in the White House.

These declarations pointed to the bankruptcy of a policy and also an end to the U.S. role as international gendarme. On the battle front, the U.S. had to de-escalate the war and pull out its troops, unconditionally stop its air and naval war of destruction on the north, and agree to sit down for peace talks which it had previously rejected.

The offensive and uprising in spring 1968 also had a strong impact on the political, military, economic and social situation in the United States.

The Vietnamese people, with the successes and experiences in their struggle in the spring of 1968, stepped up their offensive strategy and started a new stage of struggle—namely to fight and talk—while preparing for a strategic offensive in 1972 which led to the signing of the Paris Agreement in early 1973 and the liberation of South Vietnam in 1975.

The offensive and uprising in spring 1968 created favourable conditions for the Vietnamese people to mobilize the combined strength at home and abroad and step up their struggle in military, political, and diplomatic fields to defeat the most powerful imperialist force.

The experiences of the offensive and uprising in spring 1968 and of the strategic offensive in 1972 took the military art of people's war and the revolutionary struggle of Vietnam to a new height and to its culmination in the general offensive in the spring of 1975.

The victories of Vietnam's military (arm) had been witnessed in the choice of the right targets for attack in cities and provincial towns, where the enemy had their nerve centres and were storing weapons and technical means, and in the choice of the time for surprise attacks.

Those victories also could be seen in the close coordination of forces in various directions, scales, and periods of time.

They also demonstrate the valiant fighting spirit, high sense of discipline and stamina of the Vietnamese people and armed forces in both the north and the south who did all they possibly could to achieve the strategic target set by the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Radio Carries Editorial

BK301447 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 29 Jan 88

[NHAN DAN 30 January editorial: "The Tet Mau Than Victory and Our Current Cause of Renovation"]

[Text] Exactly 20 years ago, on the night of 29 January and at dawn on 30 January 1968, the Tet Mau Than Offensive and Uprising erupted, creating a turning point of decisive significance in our people's anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation. This victory was a high peak of Vietnamese revolutionary heroism displayed by the armed forces and people in both the north and the south, which dealt a hard blow to the American war maniacs, forcing them to deescalate the war and creating conditions for realizing our strategic intention of forcing the Americans out and toppling the puppets afterwards, and bringing our people's cause of national liberation to total victory. The great victory of Tet Mau Than originated from the talented and creative leadership of our party in conducting the revolutionary war, from the patriotism, indomitability, and intelligence of combatants and people throughout our country, and from the strong support of all progressive mankind. In the passage of time, this victory was the continuation of the heroic concerted uprising and the fierce battles mounted to defeat the special war of the U.S. imperialists and then, to foil the two dry-season counteroffensives of the U.S. and puppet troops. At the same time, the victory of Tet Mau Than also created conditions for the ensuing glorious battles

which resulted in the big victory on Route 9 in Southern Laos in 1971, the widespread victories in 1972, and finally the great spring victory in 1975.

We celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Tet Mau Than victory at a time when, since the sixth party congress, the cause of profound and broad renovation in our country has been started. Reflections on this historic victory further enrich our thinking which is undergoing a process of renovation in diverse respects. This is the thinking of a leadership which firmly grasps all aspects of the true situation in every locality throughout the country and sets forth precise political, military, economic, and diplomatic lines for singleminded implementation by all echelons with suitable measures for achieving the highest practical results. This is the deep-rooted confidence of the people in the correctness of the leadership of the vanguard party and the firm trust placed by the leadership in the people in conformity with the concept of considering the people as roots, which allows for the launching of a correctly oriented movement of organized actions by every grass-roots unit, every sector, and every locality in order to bring about limited and local changes and consequently, all-round changes throughout the country, in the critical task of stabilizing the socioeconomic situation.

This is also the close and harmonious combination of the strength of the revolution and the cause of socialist construction in our country with the strength of our times, the most effective realization of international cooperation, and the most satisfactory application of international experience in economic development and management, in socialist enterprise, and in the use of modern scientific-technical advances to effectively develop all potentials of the country.

The revolutionary war in our country gained repeated success and finally won glorious total victory through numerous battles and campaigns and many offensives and uprisings. These battles and campaigns comprised hundreds and thousands of victorious battles bravely and resourcefully conducted with the determination, intelligence, and sweat, as well as with the blood and bones, of millions of our combatants and people in all the three strategic regions and on both the great frontline and the great rear area according to an integrated strategy of the people's war. Today, the cause of renovation can only succeed if every citizen, every laboring person, every labor collective, and every patriotic Vietnamese at home and abroad who are really concerned about the nation's destiny do all they can to introduce the various party resolutions imbued with the new thinking into life so as to achieve the highest socioeconomic efficiency.

Our Vietnamese nation has undergone the most difficult and fierce trials and has, at times, faced even the most extreme danger. Twenty years ago, when the U.S. imperialists mustered all the might of the strongest industrial and military power of imperialism to occupy the south and attack the northern part of our country, our party

and people were resolved to fight with correct lines and methods and won glorious victory. Today, recalling the lessons of history with well-justified pride and bolstered confidence in the party as well as in themselves, our people are determined to accomplish even more satisfactorily all the tasks already set forth, to deeply and broadly introduce the process of renovation into life, and to bring about an improvement in all grass-roots units, all sectors, and all localities so as to effect a general change for the better in the whole economy, the whole society, and the whole country.

Tet Offensive in Hue Recalled

BK010927 Hanoi VNA in English 0703 GMT
1 Feb 88

["Tet Offensive in Hue"—VNA headline]

[Text] Hanoi VNA 1 February—Hue, the old imperial capital of Vietnam and chief town of the central Vietnam's former Thua Thien Province (now part of Binh Tri Thien Province) was one of the two main targets of the Mau Than general offensive and uprising in late 1967 and early 1968 of the Vietnamese revolutionary forces against the U.S. occupationists and its Saigon stooge regime. The other main target was Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City

The task of the local people was to seize Hue and neighbouring towns, set up the revolutionary administration and prepare for the general offensive in the whole South Vietnam.

At the same time, the local army and people were to attract the enemy force, wear them out, and decimate them in order to create conditions for breaking the enemy's defence and moving southwards.

Within 25 days and nights, from Jan. 31 to Feb. 25, 1968, the people and Army in Hue and Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces put out of action about 25,000 troops of the enemy, including 8,000 Americans, shot down and destroyed on the ground more than 200 aircraft, set ablaze or damaged 500 armoured cars and 40 gun-boats. They took on all military offices and bases of the enemy in the area, cut all communications and held many parts of the city for several days.

The uprising and offensive dismantled all offices of the Saigon puppet administration in the town and province. More than 1,000 political prisoners were liberated and four-fifths of the hamlets with three-fourths of the population were freed from enemy control. Tens of thousands of young men joined the revolutionary army or the local militia. People's committees were set up at the provincial and district levels and in most communes.

The uprising and offensive in Hue and the neighbourhoods greatly contributed to the final victory of the Mau Than general offensive and uprising in early 1968 which dealt a decisive blow to the U.S. local war strategy.

forcing the U.S. to halt the bombing of the north, begin withdrawing its troops from the south and eventually sign the Paris agreement on ending the war in Vietnam.

Novel on Hue Published

BK010210 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT
31 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 31—On January 31, 1968 a few days after Tet (Lunar New Year festival) the liberation forces attacked more than 100 cities and towns and scores of military bases throughout South Vietnam. This concerted, nationwide assault caught off-guard hundreds of thousands of American GI's and more than half a million troops of the U.S.-backed Saigon regime, starting the process of de-escalation of the war, peace talks and complete withdrawal of U.S. forces.

In this offensive, the former imperial city of Hue was held by the liberation forces for the longest time—25 days—during which fierce fighting erupted between the lightly armed liberation forces on one side and the Saigon army backed by U.S. Marines with overwhelming firepower on the other.

Xuan Thieu spent eight years from 1978 through 1985 preparing for first volume (407 pages) of his novel "Hue—Mua Mai Do" (Hue—Red Apricot Season), published by the People's Army Editions in January this year.

Two of the main characters in the novel are Lt.Col. Le Khang, alias Tu Thien, 46, commander of the Liberation Army's 7th Regiment, and its Political Commissar Luu Duong, 43. Tu Thien, a burly, energetic military commander, is an irascible man, somewhat "stiff" in terms of intellect, outlook on life and on human psyche. In contrast, Luu Duong, who graduated from an army political school in the north, is far from bookish and has original ideas.

There is at first a pretty wide gap between their views on many questions before this meeting. The conflicts of ideas and temperaments within Tu Thien's family make up a big part of the novel. Hardly had he come out of the anti-French resistance with a bullet ripping through between his lungs than Tu Thien had to leave for North Vietnam with his nephew Phuc to regroup under the Geneva agreements. His wife, Dao, stayed back in Hue with their daughter Mai and their son Chien who were still very young.

Under pressure from the Americans and the Saigon administration, wives of regroupees to the North had to divorce their "communist" husbands. With tearful eyes, Dao had to sign the divorce papers and become concubine to Tan Phat, a joiner's shop owner and close friend of Tu Thien. Although the unconsummated marriage was but an eyewash intended for the Americans and Saigon authorities, Dao felt humiliated to go about as concubine of Tan Phat who later turned out to be

working for the revolution. Upon learning that Tu Thien had returned from the North and was stationed in a mountain area not far from Hue, Dao divorced Tan Phat, returned to her home and continued to bring up her children in hopes of reunion with her former husband.

It is not uncommon for women to waver and make concessions to the enemy in the course of long wars. Yet, Tu Thien's intransigence does not permit him to overcome his offended pride; during his regroupment in the North, he had stayed away from some attractive women who took a fancy to him. Why then could his wife not wait for him? Why did she "take another step" by marrying another man? Never could he forgive her. She had to beg pardon on her knees.

Mai, Tu Thien's daughter, now a 23-year-old medic, had served with her father in a resistance base for two years. After a visit to her mother in enemy-held Hue, she returned to her father, bringing a number of gifts from her and her mother. At first Luu Duong is somewhat embarrassed by Mai's request to help reconcile her parents. For his own family ties are no less complicated than Tu Thien's.

"And you, why did you remarry?" Tu Thien suddenly asks Luu Duong. The political commissar had to make a full confession of his private life. From 1959, he says, he got no more news from his first wife, The. Luu Duong knows that The is then detained in Hue by the puppet administration on account of her revolutionary activities and he craves for meeting her again. He is convinced that even if The remarried before he "took another step" with Hien he would not resent it. He believes that nobody is to blame for such changes, except the Americans and the puppet regime who force revolutionaries' wives to sever ties with them. Their aim is not only to cut off all sentimental ties in those women, but also to stamp out any revolutionary will in them. "They want to dash all their hopes for the country's reunification, their hope to see their revolutionary husbands again."

"Before you came in here, did Hien talk about your meeting your former wife again?" Tu Thien asks.

"Yes, she did."

"How come she did not say a word to prevent you from doing so?"

"Absolutely not. On the contrary, she even hopes that I meet Dung's mother again."

Luu Duong tells Tu Thien that in her letters to him as well as to Hien, The has convincingly shown that she knows how to handle their threesome affair.

"None of us three is wrong," Luu Duong pleads. "On the other hand, there is always a selfish side to love. The question is to behave in such a way none of us three would be unjustly punished. I think that each of us should make a little sacrifice, for you can't eat a cake and have it too."

Some sentimental problems remain unsolved in the first volume. Can Dao have a chance to explain things to her husband who is leading a whole army column to liberate Hue, or will she have to wither away with her sorrows and humiliation?

Can Mai get rid of her divorced husband Hoat, a security man of the puppet administration who still tries to get her, and marry Lieutenant Quoc, commander of the 3rd Battalion, a promising officer?

Will Tu Chien, Tu Thien's son, who is attending the Saigon officers training school at Thu Duc, follow his father's advice by going over to the revolutionary side?

These and other sentimental affairs are interwoven with accounts of fierce fighting between the two sides.

Overseas Vietnamese To Visit

*BK311040 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 31 Jan 88*

[Text] Some 500 overseas Vietnamese have registered to return home to celebrate Tet, the traditional New Year festival of Vietnam. The figure is the highest since the liberation in April 1975. Most of the visitors live in the United States of America, France, Canada, Australia, and Hong Kong.

The first group of overseas Vietnamese will arrive in Ho Chi Minh city on 1 February 1988.

Australia

Aid to African Frontline States To Increase *BK300617 Melbourne Overseas Service in English* 0510 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Australia's foreign affairs minister, Mr Hayden, says Australia will increase its aid to the Frontline States of southern Africa but will refuse to support any acts of violence.

Mr Hayden has now left Canberra for his first official visit to Africa. The foreign minister is to tell a Commonwealth foreign ministers' meeting in Lusaka of Australia's decision to increase its 3-year aid promise to Africa from \$35 million to \$100 million.

Mr Hayden returns to Australia on 27 February.

Hayden To Reinstate Fiji High Commissioner *BK291055 Melbourne Overseas Service in English* 0500 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Australia is preparing to resume full diplomatic relations with Fiji by sending back Australia's high commissioner to Suva. The Australian minister for foreign affairs and trade, Mr Hayden, said he expected the reinstatement of the high commissioner would take place in the very near future.

Mr Hayden said some Australian aid to Fiji is to be resumed.

An aid team will leave for Fiji on Sunday for talks on areas where aid could be restored. Australia suspended its aid programs and withdrew the high commissioner in Suva following the second military coup in September.

Mr Hayden said that because of Australia's decision this month to recognize states and not governments it was not a matter of approving or disapproving of Fiji's present government, but of assessing Australia's best interests. He said that it was on that basis that Canberra could restore its full diplomatic strength in Suva.

Fiji

Australian Official Discuss Aid Resumption *BK310845 Melbourne Overseas Service in English* 0800 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Three senior Australian officials have gone to Suva for talks with the Fiji Government on the resumption of Australian development aid. The officials are Dr Robert Dun, director general of the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau; the head of the

Bureau's Pacific Desk, Mr Rod Irwin; and the head of the Pacific Desk at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ms Carina Campbell. They will be in Fiji for 6 days.

Australian development aid to Fiji was cut off following the military coups staged by Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka last year.

The delegation will first brief officials of the Australian High Commission in Suva on the government's plan for the resumption of aid—a decision flowing from cabinet's recent announcement it would recognize states rather than governments.

New Zealand

Lange Shelves Flat Tax Rate Measures *BK010835 Melbourne Overseas Service in English* 0800 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The New Zealand Government has decided to refer its latest tax measures for further scrutiny by a social equity committee after the prime minister, Mr Lange, announced last week the measures would be shelved indefinitely.

The measures, foreshadowed by the Finance Minister Mr Roger Douglas last December, include a flat tax rate for individuals and businesses.

Last Thursday, Mr Lange said the measures would disadvantage low income earners and said Treasury estimates were not sustainable next financial year.

The announcement by Mr Lange caused some consternation in financial and political circles with analysts describing the move as a major split over economic policy.

Finance Minister Vows Reform *BK310839 Melbourne Overseas Service in English* 0800 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] The New Zealand minister of finance, Mr Roger Douglas, pledged today that his radical economic reform package shelved by the prime minister, Mr Lange, will go ahead. Speaking at a news conference in Wellington after returning on short notice from overseas, Mr Douglas said he would take what he called the crucial matter of the timing of his proposals to cabinet tomorrow. He denied any rift between himself and Mr Lange and reaffirmed that he would not resign.

Mr Lange announced on Thursday Mr Douglas' proposals, heralded as New Zealand's biggest economic reform package to date, would not go ahead on 1 October as announced by the finance minister and needed adjustment.

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